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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Would you support another round of austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays in government?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Independence Day

Bangladesh celebrated 37 years of independence Wednesday with ceremonies and military parades.

ASIA...Page 25



Oldest Ancestor

A small piece of jawbone unearthed in a cave in Spain is the oldest known fossil of a human ancestor.

WORLD...Page 26



Eliminated

Chikezie was eliminated from "American Idol" as the show narrowed the competition to nine finalists.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 35

Speaker declines to accept Stanley resignation. **PAGE 3**

Kevin's Video accuses 3 video stores of piracy. **PAGE 7**

Survey: Underage drinking up

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Alana Leon Guerrero looks at informational flyers and posters displayed on the table while DPH Community Guidance Center's Maggie Untalan talks during the town hall meeting for underage drinking at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday.

Man convicted in NMI's first stalking trial

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has found Roger S. Castillo guilty of one count of stalking in the first-ever trial of that nature in the CNMI.

Lizama ruled on the bench trial on Tuesday.

According to assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield, Lizama also convicted Castillo of three counts of violating an order of protection, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

The defendant was, however, found not guilty of two other charges—one count of stalking and one count of mis-

See MAN on Page 4

More than a quarter of children in the CNMI from grades sixth to twelfth have had their first drink of alcohol before the age of 13, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Public School System.

The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, released recently, showed that 27.4 percent of CNMI youth have had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before reaching 13 years old.

This is an increase over the findings in a similar survey done in 2005, when it was found out that 26.1 percent of students from grades sixth to twelfth have had their first alcoholic drink be-

See SURVEY on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses for a photo with members of the Autism Society of the CNMI, CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities, and special guests during the proclamation signing ceremony declaring April as Autism Month in the CNMI at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill Thursday. See related story on Page 5

Admin, Stanley cast wary eye on Telesource offer

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration expressed caution yesterday on an offer by Telesource CNMI Inc. to help solve the power crisis on Saipan. In the House of Representatives, a lawmaker urged his colleagues to be wary of the proposal.



Reyes



Torres

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the proposal would be reviewed closely. But he underlined that the administration will make sure it does not become indebted to any particular firm with interest in a future privatization program.

"We want to get away from any possible conflict of interest. We will consider

See ADMIN on Page 4

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Local

Article 18 opinion irks Atalig

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Municipal Council member Felipe Q. Atalig disagrees with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's legal counsel, Howard P. Willens, on the issue of Article 18, saying that Willens' recent analysis of the article is only his "personal opinion."

In a letter, Atalig urged Willens not be "wishy-washy in upholding the sanctity of the Covenant and the application of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution."

"As a government legal adviser for the Commonwealth, you are ethically duty-bound to protect and defend vigorously the Covenant and the Constitution of the Commonwealth," Atalig said.

The council member also advised Willens not to be guided by his "lofty wisdom of reversed liberalism."

The governor had recently opposed the voting registration

procedures that seek to implement the provisions of Article 18 (5)(c) of the CNMI Constitution. Fitial had urged the CNMI Election Commission to stop the ongoing registration of Northern Marianas descent, saying that allowing only those who are considered NMI descent to vote on the fate of Article 12 is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Fitial, who based his decision on Willens' legal opinion, said that his reasons for opposing the registration requirements were of "legal, political, and practical in nature."

Atalig said Willens is not the same person he used to know "when we were drafting my proposal on Article 18."

"You [Willens] courageously defended Article 12 with no expression of what you [are now saying as] unconstitutional," Atalig said.

Willens, who analyzed Article 18 (5)(c) with the help of Professor Ronald D. Rotunda

of George Mason University in Virginia, said that the Commonwealth is entitled to limit the right to own land in the CNMI to persons considered Northern Marianas descent but the voting restrictions imposed by Article 18 (5)(c) would be invalidated by the courts if it were challenged under the 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Atalig said that Article 18 Section 805 (a) of the Covenant is a "facet of the United States Public Law 94-241, which was also adopted by Joint Resolution by the 94th United States Congress and the product of a Presidential Proclamation No. 4534.

He urged the Legislature, the Municipal Council and the Board of Election not to consider the "personal opinion" of Willens as final.

"I'd like to suggest to continue the registration on NMDs and [in the case of] any disagreements, let them challenge it through Article IV, Section II of our Constitution on certified legal questions," Atalig said.



Atalig

OPA: No to exempting NMC from 1 percent contribution

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor is against exempting Northern Marianas College from the requirement to contribute 1 percent of its budget to OPA.

"OPA has always been supportive of the need to provide resources to education in the Commonwealth. However, we are opposed to the waiver of NMC from the requirement to contribute 1 percent of its annual budget to OPA," said Dawn Chrystal K. Revilla, an analyst at OPA.

She said the agency is concerned the waiver "will set an

undesirable precedence given the responsibilities placed on OPA by the CNMI constitution and auditing act."

NMC's 1 percent represents approximately \$50,000. The proposal to relieve the college from paying this amount to OPA is pending before the House of Representatives.

In a letter to House Ways and Means Committee chairman Ray N. Yumul, Revilla offered a compromise: OPA will take on the cost of NMC's single audit if the college continues to pay the 1 percent.

She said OPA agrees to take on the additional expense—about \$32,000—because NMC is fund-

ed by the central government, which has remained current in remitting its one percent to OPA.

She added that the difference of \$18,000 will be used toward other services that OPA provides for NMC and all other government agencies.

These services include adjudicating procurement appeals, conducting performance and compliance audits, performing investigative work, monitoring financial disclosures of government officials, providing ethics education and enforcement, monitoring and regulating campaign finance activities in the commonwealth, and providing general advisory services.



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Governor pleased with House move to repeal rate setting law

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday expressed satisfaction yesterday with a House move to repeal Public Law 15-94, the law that forces the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to charge utility consumers some 17 cents per kWh, far below the actual cost of providing power service.

"I thank Speaker Arnold Palacios and 16th House for supporting this long overdue repeal to provide much needed financial relief for CUC and stabilize its operations," said Fitial.

Fitial characterized the House action as a major breakthrough and urged the Senate

to follow suit.

The Governor noted that when Rep. Arnold Palacios first introduced the bill in the 15th Legislature, the bill had good intentions but took a different turn with subsequent legislative amendments.

"I am very pleased that Speaker Palacios's original intent is now closer to becoming a reality with the House's approved modification of this troublesome law," said Fitial.

Public Law 15-94 became law through a legislative override and resulted in a declaration of emergency and severe hardship for CUC. (PR)

Repair work on CUC engine continues

Although the two engines at Power Plants 2 and 4 have been repaired, the repairs on Engine No. 5 at Power Plant 1 continue.

Power Plant 1 mechanics have been working on liner and exhaust valves on cylinder No. 1, along with other components from the unit. During this process, inspections to other areas of the engine were being performed to determine any additional problems.

As of yesterday afternoon, three other cylinders have been identified as having damaged exhaust valves, and will require repair. It is anticipated that due to the additional repairs in-

volved, this engine will not be completed today as previously scheduled.

As a result, Power Plant 1 will not be capable to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet island demand; therefore, load shedding is required.

As soon as CUC is capable to provide sufficient electrical generation to meet the island demand, the rotating outages will no longer be required. This assumes that no additional engine problems occur during this emergency repair and may be altered as required by the CUC. (CUC)

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

9:00am-11:00am
Feeder 7: Entire Feeder
Lower Base, Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis Homestead, and Marpi area.

11:00am-1:00pm
Kiya 1: Entire Feeder
Southern side of Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Northern parts of Fina Sisú, El Toro Dandan, Kannat Table, Airport Road, San Vicente, Dandan, Northern Marianas College, Obyan, Laulau, Papago, Botanical Garden south, Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/Airport, and As Perdido

1:00pm-3:00pm
Feeder 4: Entire Feeder
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge, Denni,

Agag, As Teo, Kagman, and portions of Papago

3:00pm-5:00pm
Feeder 2: Entire Feeder
CPA Seaport, Boating Safety, American Memorial Park, portions of Lower Base, Puerto Rico and Garapan (Micro Beach Hotels), Duty Free area and Bank of Guam along Beach Road

5:00pm-7:00pm
Kiya 2: Entire Feeder
San Antonio, Afetnas, Southern side of Koblerville and As Gonno

7:00pm-9:00pm
Kiya 4: Entire Feeder
Chalan Kiya Substation, San Jose, Susupe, and Chalan Kanoa Post Office

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Speaker declines to accept Stanley resignation

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios is not accepting Rep. Stanley T. Torres' resignation as chairman of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications just yet.

Palacios said yesterday that his plan is to allow the issue to cool down for a couple days and then talk to Torres about possibly reconsidering his decision.

"I don't see this as a big controversy," said Palacios. "I have a lot of respect for Representative Torres. We get along well personally. It is unfortunate that he felt the way he felt."

Torres resigned as PUTC chairman on Wednesday because of what he perceives to be too much meddling on the part of the House leadership on how

his committee should handle the power crisis.

One of the major points of debate was the appointments to the Public Utilities Commission. According to Torres, his committee was pressured to "rubberstamp" the nominations. He was especially critical of Kimberlyn King-Hinds, whom he accused of conflict of interest. King-Hinds' nomination was confirmed despite opposition from Torres and three other House members.

Palacios stood by the majority's decision. He said the vacant positions at PUC must be filled soon, so the regulatory body can start its work and help ease the power problems.

The speaker also argued that disagreement is part of the decision-making process. "Once in a while, we will come across contentious issues. Individual

members are free to voice their opinion. But in the end, we have

to live with the decision made by the group," said Palacios.

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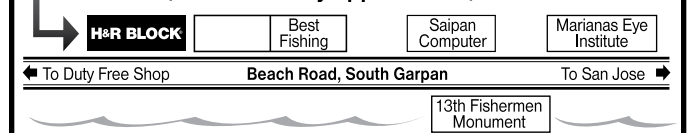
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School STUCO nets \$150 in Suds for Funds

Close to 30 San Antonio Elementary School students and teachers cleaned

cars at Shell's Suds for Funds car wash event on March 22 at Shell's Airport

Road service station, and raised \$150 for classroom supplies.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students and teachers of San Antonio Elementary School pose for the camera during a break at Shell's Suds for Funds car wash held at Shell's Airport Road service station on March 22. Parents signed a consent form allowing their children to participate.

Gunma-TV Japan to showcase Tagaman Saipan

Gunma-TV Japan was on Saipan March 13 – 17 to cover Tagaman. This TV channel reaches over 30,000 households. The programming features celebrity news and domestic travel. This year, they are bringing their audience to the 2008 Tagaman event.

Not only will they showcase Tagaman, they will show the beauty of the island of Saipan to its viewers. While here, they had an opportunity to visit Managaha Island, the Garapan street market, Banzai Cliff, Last Command Post, Bird Island, the Grotto, Suicide Cliff and many other destinations around the island.

The program "Morning Live Information/Mid-Day Live Information" has been airing for 12 years. The viewer profile is male and females in their 20s – 60s. Each 4-minute Tagaman feature will air eight times for a total of 32 minutes of programming to showcase the event as well as tourist spots on Saipan. Airing will take place in April and has an estimated value of \$68,571 U.S.

"Showcasing our islands sporting abilities as well as the natural beauty of our islands and all that we have to offer continues to be a top priority at MVA," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It was a pleasure to have Gunma-TV on Saipan as Tagaman took place." (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The crew of Gunma-TV Japan.

MAN

From Page 1

demeanor theft.

While the charges Castillo were convicted of carry no mandatory jail time, Warfield said he possibly faces as much as eight years in prison.

Stalking carries a five-year sentence, while a violation of an order of protection warrants a prison time of one year per count. The disturbing charge in this case does not carry any prison time, Warfield said.

While Castillo's victim will not receive any restitution—as there were no

physical injuries or damage to property incurred in this case—Castillo, however, faces a fine of \$5,000 for stalking and \$1,000 for disturbing the peace. He could also possibly be deported back to the Philippines after he has served his sentence, according to Warfield.

Police arrested the 50-year-old Castillo in San Vicente in July last year for allegedly stalking his former common-law wife.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in court papers that on June 15, 2007, at 10:48pm, the victim called the Department of Public Safety to report a stalking incident in As Lito. Ozawa said a police officer responded to an As Lito

residence where the victim and her children were staying.

Ozawa said the police officer informed her that Castillo had been stalking the victim the whole day.

The defendant allegedly went to the victim's work, followed her to a store, blocked the taxi she was on and even tried to run the taxi off the road.

Castillo sought police's help when the defendant came to the house where the victim and children were staying and forced his way into the house.

Ozawa said the victim gathered her and her children's personal effects and brought them to a shelter.

The following day, Ozawa said a

police officer called her to alert the shelter staff not to pick up the victim at her place of work because Castillo was seen at the parking lot.

The victim's co-worker called DPS to report Castillo's presence, in violation of a temporary restraining order.

The victim said that Castillo called her at her work several times throughout the day, but she did not take the calls.

When the victim was about to leave work, she saw Castillo in a pickup truck at the parking lot. The victim's co-worker asked Castillo to leave and not bother the victim. The co-worker decided to call police when the defen-

and tent; Coca-Cola supplies free beverage for participants.

"We're very thankful that Shell, Coca-Cola and Glimpses put this together. We got donations from Coca-Cola. All the money that was raised went to the school; none went to the sponsors," Carreon said.

For over four years since October 2003, Shell Marianas, Coca-Cola and Glimpses Advertising have been holding the Shell Suds for Funds car wash event every third Saturday of the month. This has benefited approximately 50 different civic and non-profit groups.

A regular Shell Suds for Funds event is held every Saturday at any Shell service station. Interested groups need to coordinate with the station's manager, and bring their own refreshment and cleaning supplies except for the water, which is provided by the station.

A special Shell Suds for Funds car wash is held every third or fourth Saturday of the month where a beneficiary is featured in *Beach Road Magazine* and provided with cleaning supplies and refreshments by Shell Marianas and Coca-Cola, respectively.

Groups wanting to be the featured Shell Suds for Funds beneficiary may contact Glimpses at 234-6449 and look for Jojo for details. (Shell)

SURVEY

From Page 1

fore the age of 13.

PSS conducts the survey every odd year.

"The numbers clearly show an increase in youth having a drink before the age of 13 and it really needs to be addressed," said Ayuda Network director Maria Pangelinan.

Magdalena Untalan of the Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Prevention program said that underage drinking is a serious issue as it leads to major public health issues and social consequences such as drinking and driving, suicidal tendencies, sexual assaults, and long-term alcohol substance abuse.

According to research, underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

Additionally, people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared to those who have their first drink at age 20 or older.

"We know from the work that's already been done to address underage drinking that there are many actions we can take individually or in partnership with others that have been shown to work," Pangelinan said.

She said that the Ayuda Network and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition are teaming up to create awareness and address the issue on the increasing numbers of underage drinking among youths in the CNMI.

ADMIN

From Page 1

all situations," said Reyes.

He recalled that the administration failed in its previous attempt at privatizing the Saipan power system because of perceived favoritism.

"Some people had already in mind certain companies. We want to prevent that from happening again. No special favors will be given to anyone. Our position is to be open and transparent," he said.

Telesource, which operates the Tin-

ian power plant, is proposing to lend one of its diesel generators on Tinian to the CUC power plant in Lower Base.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres called on his fellow lawmakers to approach Telesource's unsolicited offer and other similar proposals "with extreme caution."

Torres said there are many lingering questions about the original Telesource power contract on Tinian. He also questioned the intention behind the firm's offer to help with the Saipan problem.

"I wonder out loud whether this offer is not made at this time precisely

because we are so obviously desperate for power. Telesource cannot be faulted for exploiting business opportunities whether they find them or make them. They are a business looking to expand their business activity and perhaps overcome their cash flow problems on Tinian—who can blame them?" he said in a letter to Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

In a statement on Wednesday, the company's CEO and president Nidal Z. Zayed said the firm believes that the temporary relocation of 10 MW from Tinian to Saipan is feasible and beneficial to Saipan.

He said Telesource is prepared to pay for the relocation, commissioning, maintenance, and operation of the engines on Saipan, and for the ultimate relocation of the engines back to Tinian.

"The engines are Telesource's responsibility under our agreement with CUC and we will assume the responsibility pursuant to our contractual obligation, no matter where the engines are located," he said.

The company executive said that Telesource submitted such an idea to the CNMI government as far back as July 2006, but it had never received a

reply to its offer.

In that letter addressed to Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Telesource proposed to deliver to CUC Saipan within 45 days modular containerized high-speed machines for a term of 18 to 24 months on a rental basis. The machines are said to be 25-percent more fuel efficient than diesel turbines and will include all required transformers and control gear.

Another option being examined is the laying down of cables on the ocean bed between Tinian and Saipan, where electrical power can then be shared by both islands.

House reaches out to Senate on budget

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is ready to resolve its differences

with the Senate over the budget, Speaker Arnold I. Palacios says.

Palacios, in a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes, said joint talks between the two

houses should start immediately and one-on-one conferences between the respective chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Fiscal

Affairs Committee.

He said the committees could discuss the Senate leadership's concerns about the House-passed appropriation bill for

fiscal year 2008, and the anticipated shortfall in light of the FY2007 continuing appropriation authority.

Based on the outcome of the talks, Palacios said, he anticipates appointing the House conferees to fast track passage of necessary legislation.

"The House leadership has placed as its highest priority the expeditious action on legislation on the Commonwealth government budget," he said.

The first half of the fiscal year 2008 will end on Monday, March 31, without a budget being approved.

On March 3, the House passed the 2008 appropriations bill on first and final reading. The bill earmarks \$164.25 million for

all government agencies under the General Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases on public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

On March 19, the Senate upon the recommendation of the Fiscal Affairs Committee rejected the bill and referred it to a joint conference committee with the House of Representatives.

The committee report stated that the outcome of the fiscal year is uncertain, whether the Legislature passes the 2008 budget or not.

Autism a rising—but silent—epidemic

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

One out of 150 Americans is born with autism or related autism spectrum disorder, according to the latest findings of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Autism Society of America.

In the CNMI, over 70 children in the public school system have been diagnosed with autism.

Each year, the number of autism cases has grown at such a dramatic rate that many professionals have classified it an epidemic.

Despite this, there remains a lot of ignorance about the subject, necessitating the need to educate the community on autism.

Toward this end, the Autism Society of the CNMI has teamed up with the Governor's Office to declare April 2008 as Autism Awareness Month.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who signed the proclamation yesterday morning, urged members of the community to take a minute to learn more about the disability.

Chad Merfalen, a person living with Asberger's, one of the autism spectrum disorders, read aloud the proclamation before the governor's endorsement.

Autism is a developmental disability that affects the brain in the areas of reasoning, social interaction, behaviors, and communication skills.

According to research, autism

does not discriminate and affects individuals in every ethnic, country, socioeconomic class throughout the world.

Autism, according to the proclamation, is a "complex disability that is not very well understood." The manner in which people are affected by autism varies from person to person, while causes and treatment are still the subject of debate.

Not only does it impact the individuals with the disability, "but it also has a significant impact on families, caregivers, educators, and health care professionals, many of whom are still struggling to learn how best to address the special needs of an individual with autism."

Merfalen read that "it is of utmost importance that the CNMI become more aware of this disability as the number of individuals being diagnosed continues to rise."

ASCNMI member Larissa Larson is a mother of two young children diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified.

PDD-NOS is a long-winded version of saying that individuals have several symptoms of autism but do not have full-blown autism.

Larson said that one of the difficult things about dealing with autism is that it affects each child and family differently.

"In order to understand how autism is affecting our children and families, you have to un-

derstand what autism really is," Larson said.

She and the rest of the ASCNMI members are inviting everyone in the community to take a minute and learn more about the disability.

The ASCNMI was formed in January 2006 by families and friends of autism in order to support each other and share information.

The ASCNMI works to pro-

mote, protect, and advocate for the rights of all individuals with autism in the CNMI in close collaboration with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities of the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy and Systems Inc., and other organizations.

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Yumul identifies \$12.6M in potential savings

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rep. Ray N. Yumul said the government stands to save at least \$12.6 million for the rest of the 2008 Fiscal Year if three recommended courses of action are implemented at once.

The House Way and Means chairman said he and his team of analysts have reviewed and analyzed the governor's recommendations and have come up with the following estimated cost savings that the government would realize if immediately put into action:

■ Reducing employer contri-

bution to the Retirement Fund from 18 percent to 11 percent as requested by the governor. This is estimated to save \$6 million on personnel costs;

■ Passage of cost-cutting measures through the restoration of nine austerity Fridays (\$2 million savings) and suspension of the remaining four non-paid legal holidays

(\$1.6 million savings) for the remainder of the fiscal year. Total estimated savings on personnel costs amount to at least \$3.6 million; and

■ Capping all government expenditures (remaining budget authority of about \$105 million for the fiscal year) by prohibiting departments from spending all their allocations. At a minimum, this will save the government at least \$3 million.

Aside from the three measures, the Saipan lawmaker also wants the Legislature to provide Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with the budgeting tools he needs, specifically the reprogramming authority in excess of 25 percent as authorized under the Planning

RELATED NEWS
House reaches out to Senate on budget.
PAGE 5



Yumul

and Budgeting Act in order to be flexible in moving limited funds to essential departments within the Executive Branch.

He also recommended that the Legislature continue that re-

programming provision pursuant to Public Law 15-71 for up to \$4.4 million.

"All the above actions if taken together will reverse the spending trend and certainly will allow the government to get back on track to avoid drastic actions by the administration," said Yumul. "These adjustments must be taken seriously and expeditiously as time is of the essence."

As it stands, the government is expected to have a shortfall of \$14.5 million, he said, echoing Senate Committee of Fiscal Affairs chair Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan's calculations in a report on the House-passed

budget bill, H.B. 16-51.

Yumul said that, while the government is expected to have revenues of \$166.4 million in FY2008 (\$160 million in budget authority, \$5.1 million in Compact Impact, and \$1.2 million in \$1.2 million), the expected expenditure is \$180.9 million.

That is based on the October 2007-January 2008 spending trend of \$39.1 million in personnel costs and \$22 million in "All others." If that rate is unchanged, the government is looking at spending \$132.2 million in salaries for government employees and \$48.6 million on "all other" costs.

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Kevin's Video accuses 3 video stores of piracy

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kevin's Video II sued three of its competitors in the CNMI on Wednesday, accusing Movie Station I, Movie Station II, and Hollywood Video of unfair competition.

In the lawsuit prepared by the attorney F. Matthew Smith, Kevin Video II alleges that all three video shops engage in the unauthorized, unlicensed, and illegal copying of DVDs for commercial gains in violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act and common law unfair competition.

In its lawsuit filed at the CNMI Superior Court, Kevin's Video II stated that illegal DVDs for sale or rental at the three video stores' locations include "many well-known movie titles from major entertainment companies such as Walt Disney, Paramount, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, and others..."

The lawsuit accused Movie Station I, Movie Station II, and Hollywood Video of copying and commercially distributing unauthorized, unlicensed, and illegal DVDs that were copied from source DVDs such as studio-owned and distributed preview DVDs that are not yet

available commercially from any legitimate source.

In addition, the lawsuit alleges that all three companies have "made it [their] regular practice" to surreptitiously rent legally purchased DVDs from Kevin's Video, copy those DVDs rented from Kevin's Video, and then introduce the pirated copies for commercial distribution.

Kevin's Video II said that, based on information it obtained, it believes that the defendants have been engaged in this modus operandi "for at least the last several years."

It said that the three video stores' illegal practices resulted

in significant damage to Kevin's Video, "including but not limited to lost profits, lost customers, decrease in market share, and general decrease in consumer confidence in the video rental business in the Commonwealth."

The lawsuit said that, as president of Movie Station I and Movie Station II, Suk Hyun Kim is also personally liable for the illegal commercial activity of his video stores. Ditto for Hollywood Video president Bernard C. Gaffney.

Kim owns Movie Station I through ASSA Corp. and Movie

Station II through KKM Corp. Gaffney, meanwhile, has operated Hollywood Video for the past 16 years. Hollywood Video has three locations on Saipan.

Through the lawsuit, Kevin's Video II is seeking an award of damages in an amount to be proven at trial; an award of liquidated damages in accordance with provisions of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act; an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in accordance with the law; an award of the defendants' profits; and an award of punitive damages in an

amount to be proven at trial.

Kevin's Video also wants the court to order Movie Station I, Movie Station II, and Hollywood Video to stop copying and distributing illegal DVDs; require them to destroy all illegal copies of DVDs in their possessions; and other relief as the court may find appropriate.

A staff from Kim's company, Ronald Carreon, said the South Korean businessman does not want to comment on the complaint as he is still conferring with his lawyers on their course of action.

Gaffney, for his part, said he would have no comment as he is also awaiting guidance from his lawyers.

Applications open for food safety training

The Food And Drug Administration National Science Teachers Association Food Program is now accepting applications from interested teachers in the CNMI who may want to take advantage of the new understandings in food science and food safety.

CNMI middle and high school science teachers will have the opportunity to provide topically relevant lessons in food science and safety for their students.

The Food Science Professional Development Workshop will be held in Washington, D.C. on July 20-27. Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be provided.

Participants of the workshop are urged to implement the FDA/NSTA curriculum learned during the subsequent school year.

Kagman High School science teacher Robert Church had been the only teacher from the CNMI to have been accepted and had completed the food science curriculum. He is encouraging other science teachers to participate in this event.

Because disease outbreaks caused by food-borne organisms frequent the news, questions such as what measures are being taken by the federal government to prevent transmission of these organisms and what an individual can do to protect

themselves from such diseases are frequently asked.

The science and technology of food production, transportation, storage and preparation has changed to meet the need for safe food products.

According to the FDA/NSTA "new research methodologies have enabled scientists to broaden their understanding of food science."

The FDA/NSTA Professional Development Program in Food Science is supported by the FDA and implemented by the Graduate School, USDA.

Deadlines for application is April 23, 2008 and can be found at www.nsta.org/pd/fda.aspx/.

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Most of CK, Susupe now have 24-hour water

Nearly all water customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in Chalan Kanoa and Susupe villages now enjoy 24-hour water, according to the latest update from the CNMI Water Task Force.

Task force chair Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said yesterday that about 90 percent of water customers in the two villages now have 24-hour water supply.

By June it is expected 100 percent of both villages will enjoy 24-hour water, he said.

This accomplishment has been a joint effort of the Water Task Force, the Office of Insular Affairs, and the CUC Water Division with funding from OIA.

A task force statement issued yesterday said that residents in

the two areas have been quick to compliment the HD Supply contractor's team working in the field and have expressed their gratitude to both the Water Task Force and the CUC Water Division staff.

"For the first time many residents are able to enjoy the luxury of a 24-hour water supply without worrying about rationing," the statement said.

CUC reports seeing residents washing cars, watering lawns and washing off carports.

As the dry season is rapidly approaching, CUC cautions the residents of these villages that the supply to the Isley Reservoir, which provides the storage for serving the villages, is limited.

"The message is please enjoy,



Villagomez

but practice conservation. The daily high pressure has caused some service lines to fail and residents report leaking faucets, toilets and hose bibs.

Fixing the leaks, installing low flow toilets, and faucets will go a long way to conserve the water. Remember, the water you save today is the water you use tomorrow," CUC said.

Some suggestions are to wash cars once weekly, only water necessary plants, place food coloring in the toilet water tank and see if any coloring leaks into the bowl. If color is detected, replace the seal and the flapper. Replace leaking faucets and remember not to leave hoses unattended.

Once the water meters are completely installed and are being read, villagers will want to conserve water to keep lower monthly bills. At this time most are still on the monthly flat rate charge. (CUC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 28, 2000

'Investigate AGO'

The Attorney General's Office came under fire anew yesterday for its recent actions on cases that have demonstrated alleged "selective prosecution" and "retaliation" against local residents who legally challenge its authority. Rep. Stanley T. Torres hurled the charges in a privilege speech during yesterday's session of the House of Representatives as he called for oversight hearing on the AGO.

Taxi drivers feeling pinch of high fuel costs

While the adverse physical impacts of sky-rocketing prices of oil products remain within the boundaries of airline tickets and gas service stations, the people who get their living from the road have started feeling the painful pinch of high oil costs. The series of oil price adjustments since last year forced taxi operators in the Northern Marianas to allocate additional money to fill their tanks up from their meager income which average \$30 per day.

CPA implements new airport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is expecting to generate between \$1.3 and \$1.9 million from the increase in landing and passenger fees which the agency implemented beginning March 1, 2000. CPA suspended the implementation of the new schedule of airport charges for more than eight months following pressures from the 11th CNMI Legislature which pledged government subsidy to the agency.

March 28, 2001

Business leaders irked over delay on repeal of stay limit

What a difference a week makes. Business leaders yesterday aired their frustration and irritation over the Senate's continued inaction on the repeal of the three-year limit law six days after proclaiming their optimism on the law's repeal. Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino and Vice President Richard Pierce went to the Legislature yesterday morning expecting a Senate vote on one of the three bills pending before the chamber, all addressing the three-year limit law. None came.

Senate eyes amendment to telecom law

Not even a month and a half since it was signed into law, the Telecommunications Act which will create a utility regulatory body is heading for yet another amendment. But Senate President Paul A. Manglona was quick to point out that the Legislature is merely looking at minor changes to the month-old law, which was basically passed to clear the road for a CNMI Telecommunications Commission.

DPS saves 7 stranded on reef

A group of passengers aboard a sea vessel found themselves stranded outside the reef west of Saipan Grand Hotel Saturday. Seven individuals led by Henry Huet left the Sugar Dock that morning of March 24 to go on a snorkeling adventure when a strong wave struck their boat.

March 28, 2002

TF formed to curb juvenile crimes

An inter-agency task force on juvenile crimes enforcement has been formed to take a second and deeper look at the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system, amid the alarming increase of criminal activity committed by youths. Police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero, supervisor and officer-in-charge of the police department's Juvenile Crimes and Delinquency Investigations section, revealed that juveniles are involved in 4 out of 5 burglaries committed in the CNMI.

Peace country's chances thin out

Gov. Juan N. Babauta remains noncommittal over the administration's official position toward the Global Country of Peace organization, besides merely saying he will come out with an official position on the matter once Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona deigns to present these people to him. "The administration has no official position until the Mayor of Rota himself comes to us and present to us these people," Babauta said yesterday.



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Alien workers' group sets prayer vigil

A group of nonresident workers on the islands will be holding a prayer vigil in April to express support for the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system.

The Human Dignity Movement on Saipan will be leading the prayer vigil that will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater, from 5pm to 8pm.

The group is inviting all guest workers—Filipinos, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Korean, Japanese, Canadian, Sri Lankan, and others,

including local residents and business owners to attend the vigil and support the event.

"Our struggle for justice, social and political rights, and due process has long been a long one. We hope we are nearing the end," said Jerry Custodio, president of Human Dignity Movement. "We will be offering inspiration and hope through prayers, and speakers."

Participants are being asked to wear white t-shirts, if possible, and to bring their U.S. citizen children. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Beautify CNMI cites environmental leaders

The committee chairs of Beautify CNMI recognized last night individuals or groups who have been environmental leaders during the past 12 months.

Winners of the environmental awards were announced before the fundraising concert of ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro at the Saipan World Resort.

Those recognized included Max Aguon and Boys Bantalan; Marianas Dive, Paseo de Marianas Promoters; Marites Castillo; Mike Tripp; Nava Khorram; Aqua Resort Club; Rose Callier; Katie Busenkell; Marianas Visitors' Authority; Saipan Grand Hotel; Harry Blalock; Tanapag Boys Scouts; Brad Doerr; Pacific Telecommunications Inc.; Ron & Nancy Kramis; CNMI Power; Marian Aldan-Pierce; Shirley's Coffee Shop; Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council; PAWS; ISA CNMI; Mariana Island Nature Alliance; Papa Potu Award;

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz; Bree Reynolds, Capt. Carl Brachear; CNMI Lions Club; Kim Vailancourt; Lihla Noori; RanHoldings Corp; Fiesta Resort & Spa; Division of Environmental Quality Clean Up Brigade; DLNR-Foresty; TaoTao Tano, Absalon Waki, Jr.; Bank of Guam; Ruth Tighe; and Saipan Hyatt Regency. *(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)*

Red flag up at two Rota sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag at the Coral Garden and West Harbor Marina on Rota and warns the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until notified.

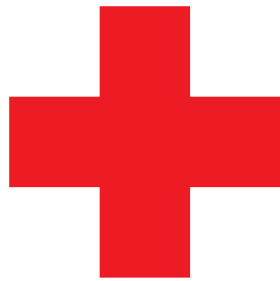
The DEQ said that samples collected from the two sites showed concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

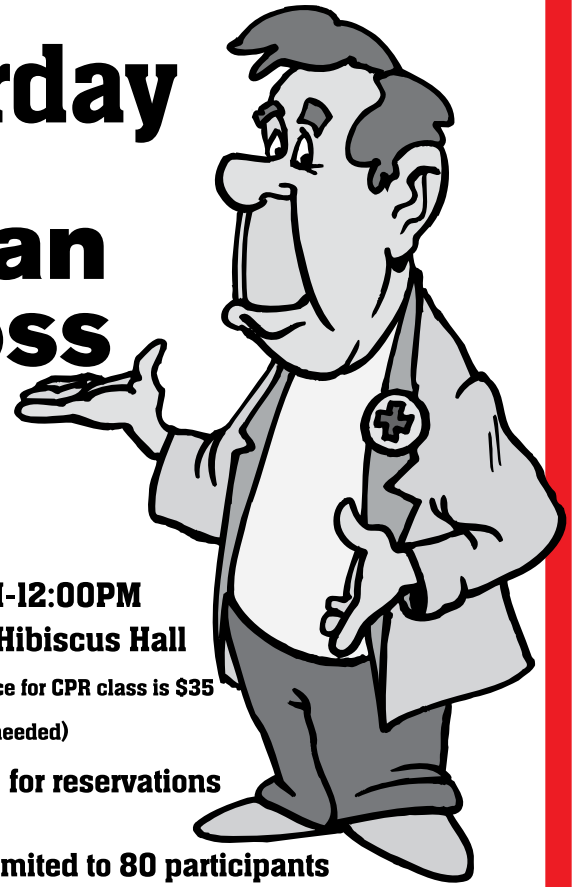
DEQ analyzed water samples collected from 12 locations on Rota this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. *(DEQ)*

Super CPR Saturday



American Red Cross



Date: April 5, 2008 Saturday

Time: Class starts at 8:00AM-12:00PM

Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall

Participants Fee: \$5 Regular price for CPR class is \$35

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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EDITORIAL

Olympic shame

As China's communist leadership conceived it, this year's Olympic Games were to mark the country's debut as a global power, with a booming economy and rapidly modernizing society. Instead, it's beginning to look as though the Games could become a showcase for violent repression, censorship and political persecution by a regime that has failed to rise above the level of police state. Though they present themselves as worldly and reformist, President Hu Jintao and his leadership group seem unable to grasp how the policies they have pursued in recent months have undermined the honor of staging the Olympics and risk destroying China's international prestige.

Even before the upheaval in Tibet this month, Mr. Hu's government was tightening its grip: shutting down publications, imprisoning dissidents and harassing lawyers in the name of pre-Olympic harmony. Officials have reneged on pledges to loosen media controls, not only in Tibet—where the foreign press has been denied access to the carnage—but in Beijing itself; as of this week, authorities won't allow live broadcasts from Tiananmen Square, site of the deadly crackdown on pro-democracy students two decades ago.

If foreign media have trouble, domestic dissidents have it far worse. They are being imprisoned just for criticizing the country's handling of the Olympics, even though China's constitution protects free speech. On Monday, land-rights activist Yang Chunlin was sentenced to five years in prison for starting a petition with the slogan, "We want human rights, not the Olympics." Last week, another dissident, Hu Jia, was put on trial on charges of subversion; he was arrested after testifying to the European Parliament via the Internet and publishing a letter urging the world to focus on human rights concerns in connection with the Olympics.

In foreign policy, there has been no discernible change in Beijing's support for some of the world's most criminal regimes, from genocide-sponsoring Sudan to Burma's brutal junta. China continues to prop up the Stalinist dictatorship of North Korea, even as that regime fails to comply with a commitment to disclose and dismantle its nuclear weapons. It is helping to block international sanctions against Iran, even as it rapidly increases trade with a regime that is flouting U.N. orders that it freeze its nuclear program.

Unfortunately, the Chinese leadership may have been encouraged by Western leaders—including President Bush—to believe it could maintain these policies and still hold a successful Olympics. Though French President Nicolas Sarkozy has now said publicly that he would not rule out boycotting the opening ceremony in Beijing in response to the repression in Tibet, Mr. Bush has not altered his ill-considered statement that he would attend the games as "a sports fan." This week, the White House reiterated that the president plans to attend the opening ceremony, gratuitously signaling to Mr. Hu that he need not fear that imprisoning dissidents or beating Tibetan monks will affect even that most political of Olympic events.

In fact, whether or not Mr. Bush attends, it looks increasingly likely that the Olympics will serve to remind the world not of China's emerging greatness but of its continuing denial of freedom to its citizens, its repression of minorities and its amoral alliances with rogue states. Mr. Bush apparently prides himself on his ability to talk with Mr. Hu. If so, he should tell the Chinese president that his policies are turning these games politically toxic.

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The right to vote in the CNMI

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

As we all know, the NMI Constitution is the basic governing law of the CNMI. It was adopted by the people of the CNMI in 1976, and has been amended since. Any proposed amendment to the NMI Constitution is decided by all the people of the CNMI, not just by "some of the people." The makeup (i.e. the composition) of "the people of the CNMI" has changed over the past 30 years. When the original NMI Constitution was adopted in 1976, literally all the people of the CNMI were "persons of Northern Marianas descent." Since that time, however, many U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent have come to the CNMI, made it their home, and have been voting here.

A constitutional question has just recently been raised: whether the NMI Constitution could *limit* the right to vote to "persons of NMI descent" with respect to a proposed constitutional amendment relating to the right to own land in the CNMI. It is my opinion that the answer to this question is clearly "No." All citizens of the United States who are residing in the CNMI—both those of NMI descent and those who are not of NMI descent—have a right to vote *as U.S. citizens and as CNMI residents* with respect to amending *any provision* of the NMI Constitution. The constitutional provision limiting the right to own land to persons of NMI descent does not have and cannot have any bearing on who could vote in NMI elections, including elections to amend Article 12. The fundamental reason for this is because the U.S. Constitution gives every eligible U.S. citizen in a jurisdiction (state, territorial or commonwealth) a right to vote. It does not distinguish between those who could own land and those who could not. Indeed, on matters involving land ownership, person who are *not* of NMI descent, to the extent that they are adversely affected by Article 12, have just as much right to vote on land ownership matters, as do persons of NMI descent.

Any legal impediment created by the government by law or otherwise—such as Senate Legislative Initiative 11-1 that prohibits U.S. citizens who are not of NMI descent from voting on land ownership matters—is clearly unconstitutional. Such voting restriction is very similar to the "voter-literacy test" requirement and the requirement that voters pay a "poll tax" in order to vote that were practiced in the United States during the past century. Such voting requirements have since been banned by the U.S. Supreme Court. The CNMI should not resurrect a similar requirement in different clothing.

The fact that a proposed amendment to the NMI Constitution involves the CNMI land ownership law (under which non-NMDs

could not own land) does not mean that non-NMD U.S. citizens could or should be disenfranchised from voting on amending the NMI Constitution that every citizen in the CNMI is subject to. If a certain segment of the voting population could be disenfranchised from voting on land matters, then the NMI Constitution could also be amended to limit voting on education matters, for example, to only those voters who have children going to school. All you have to do is pass an amendment to the NMI Constitution to this effect. And, if this type of limitation on voting rights were allowed, then Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th century French historian, would be clearly correct in his assessment over 150 years ago that the danger of democracy lies in the "tyranny of the majority."

It is indeed very unfortunate (and seriously misguided) that Senate Legislative Initiative 11-1 was passed in 1999 to prohibit U.S. citizens who are permanently residing in the Commonwealth (but who are not of NMI decent) from voting on land ownership matters. Although Article 12, which regulates the ownership of land in the CNMI to persons of NMI descent, has been adjudicated by the federal courts as being constitutional under the U.S. Constitution, *it does not follow from that ruling* that it is also constitutional to disenfranchise a segment of the CNMI community from voting on a proposed amendment to the NMI Constitution with respect to land ownership.

The right to vote is a completely different right from the right to own land. While the right to own land has been declared as being *not fundamental in the territories*, pursuant to the Insular Cases that were decided at the beginning of the 20th century, the right to vote is a fundamental right of all U.S. citizens in the American democracy. The right to vote is an attribute of U.S. citizenship. It is not an attribute based on land ownership. Indeed, a voting requirement stating that only those citizens who could or do own land could vote is exactly the kind of restriction that the U.S. Supreme Court would immediately strike down as unconstitutional. The right to vote by all U.S. citizens in any jurisdiction of the United States is the very essence of American democracy. Indeed, one of the fundamental reasons why the people of the CNMI joined the United States 30 years ago is to be a part of the American political family and enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed under its democratic system of government. One of these rights is the right to vote.

There are some of us who would then go on to rightfully raise several valid questions. For example: So why can't we vote for the U.S. President? Why are the people of the CNMI still unrepresented in the U.S. Congress? Why are CNMI citizens (both those who are

See **THE RIGHT** on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Zoris

There are two kinds of people on Saipan: Those who have adopted zoris as their primary footwear, and those who haven't.

Footwear is no trivial matter. Have you considered that your footwear might have serious implications for your future?

If not, consider the plight of disgraced former New York governor Elliot Spitzer and his call girl imbroglio, which may, if we believe some news accounts, have prison time as a consequence. Recent news item: Spitzer was alleged by one political operative to have worn "calf length black socks" during "the sex act," (now really, how tacky) an allegation reportedly tendered to the FBI via a letter that sought to use this piece of footwear data as "collaborating" evidence of Spitzer's deeds.

Hmmm. Zoris would have left no such trail of evidence, since you don't wear socks with them. Might this mean the difference between prison and freedom? Well, we can't rule that out entirely.

But the truth is that men have never known what to do with their socks. Socks are an awkward piece of attire, to be sure. You have to have black ones for business wear, white ones for athletic duty, and often other shades for, well, whatever. Socks take up an obscene amount of space when packing a suitcase. And the cost? A good pair of socks can run 10 bucks. It's not a satisfying purchase, either; nobody ever walked out the door feeling like a million bucks because

of his nice new socks.

Zoris get you neatly around that problem. And they're easy to shed at your front door.

But, as for me, I'll admit that I never took to zoris. Or tennis shoes, for that matter. Perhaps it's the psychological law of primacy. When I was a kid, my mother, a ballet instructor, and hence very savvy about feet and related bone structures, made me wear heavy "corrective" shoes just to ensure that my feet developed properly. I have no idea, really, what all that means; it's a mom thing.

Anyway, back in those kid days, one of the school bullies, a big lum-mox named Kenny, would tease me because of my big black dorky shoes. Kenny thought he was cool in his Adidas. And he was, maybe, until he shot off his mouth one too many times, whereupon I kicked his family jewels so hard they're probably still embedded in his spleen.

Kenny got a lesson he's certainly not forgotten: A two-pound shoe, swung in an arc as long as a leg, carries enough angular velocity and, hence, kinetic energy to turn a dork like me into an instant Bruce Lee, and a lum-mox like him into an instant jellyfish.

These days, I can't really say that I intend to give anyone a good swift kick, but I do reserve the option.

And then we have Kevin, my pal in the Navy. Kevin had two things on his mind: One was to try to avoid sea duty, and the other was a funky, stinky foot fungus that he couldn't seem to shake.

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs on Fridays. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com.



Well, one problem solved the other. I still remember the day when a Navy doctor told Kevin that his medical eligibility for sea duty was in jeopardy from the foot condition. That afternoon I found Kevin in his apartment, soaking his feet, in socks, in a bucket of warm water, so as to facilitate the fungal growth. He spent every possible moment wearing wet socks for the next week or so, which meant we couldn't go out for beer, so I'd bring some to him, and there we'd sit listening to his stereo and sipping Miller Lites as he periodically immersed his stockinged feet in the bucket. The stench was so bad we'd light cigars to mask the smell.

So think of all the lives that would have been changed if zoris were more popular. Maybe Spitzer wouldn't be in such legal trouble. Maybe Kenny wouldn't be sterile. Maybe I'd still be an easy mark for bullies. And maybe Kevin would have been on a slow boat to Diego Garcia.

See? Whether or not you wear zoris, it's clearly not a decision to be taken lightly.

Stuck on the toilet

A few weeks ago, the news story was published about a woman who walked into her bathroom one day, and just decided to stay. She took a seat, and for two years, she sat on the toilet, until eventually, her skin grew around the toilet seat, linking her to it. Her partner commented that he thought that when she went into the bathroom, she would be out soon, but the minutes stretched into hours, days, weeks, months, and that it just became a way of life for them. Everything was normal, except that she was stuck on the toilet. Things become so weird, and you don't know how to cope with them, so you eventually start to think they're normal. Then one day, someone walks into your bathroom and you realize the anomaly of your situation. "Hello Mr. Fireman. What brings you into my bathroom today?"

Gradually, over the past few months, the city water supply to our home has diminished. We already only get water for an hour a day, but for years it's been enough to fill our tank. Now, every few weeks, the tank runs dry. I call the ever-ready trouble desk at the utility. I say something like, "Salutations. Thou art hearkening to the namesake of biblical kings. I summon thee from yonder naval knoll. Liquid hath gone thither. Wherefore art thy words to bring peace to puzzled souls?" As expected, the answerer at the trouble desk says, "Huh?" So I repeat myself, word for word. "Hello. This is David Khorram. I'm calling from Navy Hill. Our water has run out. Can

you help us." Well, if I'm going to say the same thing, then the answerer is going to say the same thing. He responds, "Huh?" This will go on for several exchanges, each time with me using fewer words to simplify the description of the situation, until finally, I'm down to "Nothing water Navy Hill." The response: "Call back tomorrow." I call back tomorrow. We do it all over again. Day after day, this exchange takes place with high anticipation of a different outcome. But every day, it ends with the same Shakespearean quote rambling in my head—"Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace from day to day to the last syllable of recorded time; and all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death." I find myself getting used to the absence of a solution. So, we've been paying an extra \$100 or so a month to have water delivered to our home when we run out. "Hello Mr. Fireman. Why are you bringing a crowbar into my bathroom today?"

I've been doing some work with a freelance graphic artist who lives in a country where snow is currently falling on the ground. All of his work is for clients that live around the world, all done through the Internet. I was going to suggest to him that he move to Saipan. After all, his location matters not, because he is "Internet based." Then I realized I had forgotten that a one-man-show like his, and like thousands around the world, who would love to relocate to a low-tax tropical island and set up clean environmentally friendly

BETTER LIVING

By **DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram



businesses that consume and generate only electrons, needs a reliable source of electrons. Power. Electricity. Sure, bigger businesses can buy a generator. But the little guy can't. And, wow, the economy that could be built around selling Saipan to these freelance Internet entrepreneurs! But, people from most developed countries don't think about the prospect of not having power for hours at a stretch, certainly not for days out of a month, and absolutely not on a scheduled rotating basis. "Hello Mr. Fireman. Look, my skin has grown into the toilet seat! Please don't pry me loose."

Let's just fix it. Power and water. Those are some pretty basic first steps toward calling yourself a developed "investor friendly" "tourist friendly" "resident friendly" place. C'mon guys. It's time to pry ourselves off the toilet seat.

Letters to the Editor

Letter of apology

Dear Saipan Computer Services, Carrier Guam Inc. (Saipan Branch), Min Enterprises, Trans America, JD Appliance Store:

I am writing you this letter to ask you to forgive me for my mistakes of issuing you bad checks. Throughout my life I've had a lot of personal problems, and it had caused me to do all these things, and I apologize to you all, hoping that someday you'll have a place in your heart to forgive me for my actions.

I realized and understand that what I have done to you all was wrong and it brought shame to myself and all my family, most especially to my husband and my only son.

I didn't really mean to do this but I was all confused, desperate, and mad at not being smart enough that I will end up in jail, because of marital problems, gambling and

other personal problems.

My mistakes have caused me to experience difficulties and hardship in my life. I went to jail for two years for the offense of theft by deception that I had committed.

I am also currently serving time on probation for the mistake that I have done to you all.

- Saipan Computer Services
- Carrier Guam (Saipan Branch)
- Min Enterprises
- Trans America
- JD Appliance Store

I am attending counseling, attending classes at GED, crime prevention, parenting classes, doing community work service ordered by the court as well as paying penalties, and paying restitution to help me change and improve my life. I have learned a lot from

all these things that I am attending and from these, I will try to be a better person in the future.

I regret what I have done to you all, and I apologize to you. Please forgive for the mistakes that I have caused you, I want to move on with my life and start all over again.

All these things that I have done to you have caused me difficulties in life and hardship in finding myself a job, but I accept all the consequences and I have to make sacrifices to find other ways to repay you for the crime I have committed.

Once again, please forgive me and I am so sorry and this will never happen again. Thank you very much.

MaryAnn DLC. Indalecio

Enough already!

I am one of the thousands of Filipino guest workers on CNMI. Every time I read what Mr. Glad said about us, I feel insulted. He insulted not only me but all of us when he made a sweeping statement that it is typical for Filipinos to disappear when we have problems. It is apparent that he likes to blame others for his predicament. That's a natural human instinct to be able to survive but I beg Mr. Glad not to do it at the expense of the Filipino guest workers. The more he talks, the more insults come out. Why don't you just shut your mouth, cooperate with the government in the investigation and talk after due process is done? Speak of the facts and not out of mere suspicion. What happened to IMC is your fault and not anybody else's fault.

All the Filipinos are waiting for your apology, Mr. Glad.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

THE RIGHT

From Page 10

and are not of NMI descent) treated like "second-class citizens?" Why does the U.S. Congress, on occasion, treat the CNMI with little regard for our economic welfare? The answer to these and other valid questions would

require a much longer explanation than my purpose in writing this. (And I have been told that my letters are either "too long" or "too high-brow.") For now, let me just get back and conclude this matter.

In our democracy, all U.S. citizens have the right to vote with respect to who their elected leaders will be and what the basic governing law of our

jurisdiction should be. A majority of the electorate in a democracy, however, *cannot decide who could vote and who could not vote* with respect to amending any provision of our Constitution. To disenfranchise other U.S. citizens who live in and are permanently residing in the CNMI from voting to amend the basic governing law of the CNMI (the law that governs everyone in the

CNMI), even if the proposed amendment involves only the matter of land ownership, would clearly run afoul of the U.S. Constitution.

The CNMI Attorney General, as the chief legal officer of the Commonwealth, has an obligation to issue a clear legal opinion on this issue *immediately*, so that the CNMI Commission on Elections would be guided accord-






ingly, in the event of any election to amend Article 12. The courts (CNMI or federal) would have to render a declaratory judgment on the issue at some point, because the constitutional restriction on voting on land matters is still "in the book," so to speak.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼71
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲84 ▼70
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼74

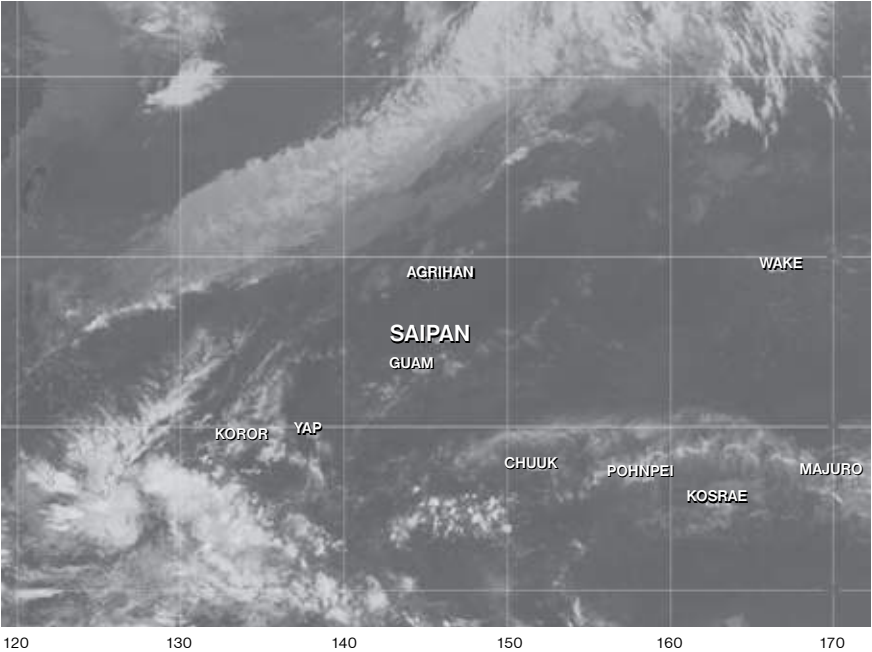
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼58
Beijing	Rain	▲55 ▼45
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼68
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼71
London	Rain	▲53 ▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼54
Manila	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61 ▼48
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼72
New York	Rain	▲40 ▼31
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼39
Paris	Rain	▲53 ▼34
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼38
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲65 ▼47
Salem	Rain	▲47 ▼35
San Francisco	Showers	▲60 ▼44
Seoul	Showers	▲54 ▼39
Tokyo	Rain	▲64 ▼43
Washington, DC	Rain	▲56 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
05:32AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:26AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
06:14PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ135E. Winds converging near the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Koror within 125 miles of a line from 7N130E southeastward to 2N135E. A cold front crosses the northwest corner of the discussion area from 18N130E to 25N150E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along this boundary and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating clouds and scattered showers in the Marshall Islands between 3N and 10N from 170E to 180. An old shear line reaches westward from 21N180 to end at 20N170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15AM	6:29PM
Saturday	6:15AM	6:29PM
Sunday	6:14AM	6:29PM
Monday	6:13AM	6:29PM
Tuesday	6:13AM	6:29PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:56PM	10:22AM
Saturday		11:13AM
Sunday	12:47AM	12:06PM
Monday	1:36AM	1:01PM
Tuesday	2:22AM	1:56PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FREE PHONES*

TENT SALE

Today from 2pm to 6pm

***Purchase \$50 prepaid wireless cards & get one of these phones for FREE !**

GSM



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Motorola V361



Motorola V195



Motorola V191

*Starter kit not included

CDMA

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Some Conditions apply. All Sales FINAL. Starter Kit not included w/ GSM phone. You must purchase \$50 GSM cards to get the GSM phone. You must purchase \$50 CDMA Cards to get CDMA phone. Valid for March 28th or while supplies last. Gualo Rai location only.

Letter to the Editor

The Great Saipan Land Rush...not!

Many letters have been written both in favor and against the repeal of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution that limits land ownership to those of Marianas decent. So I am putting in my opinion. My opinion is based on my educational and professional expertise and experience. I hold a bachelor's degree in Real Estate and Land Use from California State University. I lived in California from 1966 to 2002 and experienced the California land rush that continues to this day. As a supervisory loan officer of the U.S. Small Business Administration for 12 years, I have underwritten literally thousands of real estate and commercial loans across the Western and Midwest U.S. and trust territories. I know real estate. First

I debunk a few myths. Then I will address the possible options as presented by Rep. Camacho on his web site. I will address real estate speculation, infrastructure shortfalls, property taxes, probates, the effect on the indigenous population and other related issues. The bottom line of all this is that Article 12 as written is good for the indigenous population and truthfully, for the rest of us living in the CNMI.

Myth No. 1: Land can be bought anywhere in the U.S. No way! In addition to National and state parks, preserves, etc., there are millions of square miles of land that cannot be sold. The lands belong to the indigenous population, Indian reservations. The land belongs to them and

cannot be sold even between Indians. The Indians use the land as they wish. These lands are sovereign Indian nations within the U.S. reservation. For those of you who have never been on a reservation, be warned; there are signs that state you are on reservation land and subject to their laws. They can discriminate against anyone not Indian. Maybe the CNMI should research becoming an Indian reservation or seek a separate sovereign nation status.

Myth No. 2: Investors will not invest in the CNMI because they cannot own the land. That is a bunch of bull. If you have ever been to Mexico you will find the coastlines covered with resorts and businesses. Mexican law restricts the ownership, fee

simple, of land within 25 miles of the coast to Mexican citizens. All the resorts and land on the Mexican coast are either owned by Mexican or the resorts are on leased land. Investors go where they can make money, period.

Representative Camacho on his website makes an honest effort that delineates various possible scenarios to address the land issue. The problem with these scenarios, groups A-E, is that they are arbitrary and subject to legal interpretation. For example, if I owned land in the CNMI worth \$5 million and was excluded from selling my property, you can bet I would be in court disputing the law as arbitrary and unconstitutional. Attorneys would love this. Any changes to Article 12 must be fair, not arbitrary, nor discriminatory. Additionally do we want elected officials changing real estate ownership law at will as they have the propensity to do with other laws? The repeal of Article 12 is an all-or-nothing deal. There will be no going back.

So, what happens when Article 12 is repealed? First to show up for the land rush will be the real estate speculators. Some are already here. Locals buying small plots here and there. Speculators will buy plots here and there to hold until the land price doubles, triples or otherwise increases in value. Then they sell and move on or if the market is still booming they keep buying and selling, all the while forcing

the price of real estate skyward. They seldom improve any property. Arriving concurrently will be the people wanting to build houses, apartments, condos, etc. These are the people who have money to spend for roads to their properties, hire contractors to build structures and so forth. Of course CUC will not be able to provide water or electricity to some properties. There is already a utilities shortage here. And a massive shortfall of funds for capital improvements. So where does the money come from? Property taxes, just like everywhere else. Property taxes are constitutional. Property taxes are not an if, but a when. The CNMI government must sooner or later, whether or not Article 12 is repealed, impose property taxes.

The people coming to CNMI to buy homes, land and to build will not be poor people. They are not moving here for a great paying jobs. They are here to suck up cheap, tropical island land that also is under U.S. government jurisdiction and protection. They will not be here just to build a primary residence, but second and third winter homes, large condo or timeshare properties, etc. There will buyers to buy, fix up and sell properties. Just like TV's "Flip This House." They will have big bucks. We are not talking about the \$60K annual income that some elected representative here think is high income. I shake my head every time I think about that.

Where is their reality? We are talking six and seven figure incomes. People with hundreds of thousands of dollars to do with as they please and play with. They pay cash. Of course that money is earned elsewhere and not subject to CNMI income tax. So why shouldn't they pay for all the infrastructure capital improvements necessary to accommodate them? That is fair. But to impose property taxes or other taxes or fees upon a specific group of landowners is discriminatory and unconstitutional. And if necessary they have the money to pursue that issue in the courts. So it will be property taxes and other taxes or fees for all landowners. Of course there can and will be exceptions, but everything such as the tax rate, assessors, exceptions, etc. must be in place before the repeal of Article 12. By the way, do these idiotic 55-year private land leases have a provision as to who pays any possible future property tax? I am willing to wager that after this letter most future 55-year leases will now include such a provision.

Historically property taxes have forced poor people from their coastal properties. Here is a possible example. Say that I am retired and own one acre of ocean front land and a house having two bedrooms and a bath. My initial appraised property value is \$10K for the land and \$40K for the structure. Total market value is \$50K. Prop-

See **THE GREAT** on Page 16

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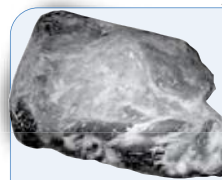
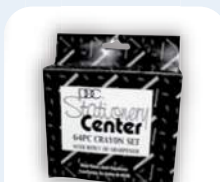
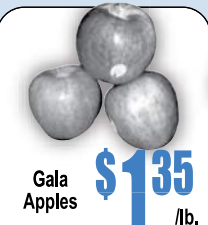
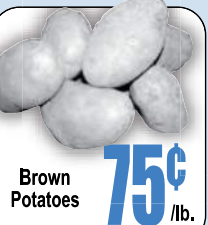
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GM CARS

R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	7,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899
R08-004F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO		AQUA	ACB-234	8,999
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999

LEXUS

R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999
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TOYOTA TRUCKS

R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499

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U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,599
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,599
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899

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U07-096T	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	BEIGE	ACO-561	7,999
R08-001F	2004	SIENNA LE	AUTO	164483	WHITE	ABY-567	12,999

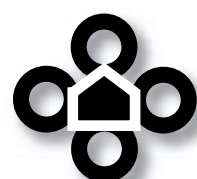
SPORT UTILITY

U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		12,599



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Letter to the Editor

What is going on, asks Tina

Did you read the page 8 *Variety* article on March 25? Should be front-page headlines in the minds of many. The confirmation process has been violated on a number of nominees to government posts. In the article, Tina Sablan is quoted as saying that a PUC nominee, Kimberly King-Hinds, was confirmed by the Senate before all of her documents were submitted and reviewed. Tina goes on to say that some lawmakers are reluctant to screen the credentials and backgrounds of nominees.

WHAT? Due diligence? Holy wackers! Is this real?

If this is really going on in any kind of a routine (or not) manner, it needs an immediate and full AG investigation. What's the deal here? Anybody know? Maybe everyone but me? Unreal to the nth.

Nor do I have any axe to grind with Ms. King-Hinds. She just happened to be the one this time. Another thought that many of us have often pondered concerns the qualifications for various government positions such as this one. And for Board of Regents at NMC? And others. Might it be time to again review qualifications in light of the dire need to get on with fixing CUC and NMC, et al? Seems to me part of the qualification would be previous experience, training and education as it directly applies to the position at hand. Time is of the essence, so let's get on with it. Rules and regulations need to be followed. And all of this needs to be carried out with complete integrity and transparency. Otherwise we can expect financial decline and social chaos. Guaranteed.

Perry Conner
As Matus, Saipan

THE GREAT

From Page 14

erty tax at a 1 percent rate on market value of the property means I pay \$500 a year in property tax. Now the property next to mine, one acre of just the land, sells for \$50K. Now the market value of my land is \$50K. So now my land and home are appraised at \$90K. I must pay \$900 in tax. This continues as the value of surrounding properties increase. What if the neighbor's land sells for \$500K? Worldwide, ocean front land usually sells in excess of \$500K. I cannot pay the taxes (\$5,000 a year) so I sell out and move... where? All the land prices in the CNMI have inflated and even that \$500K I get from the sale of my land will not get me property like I had to sell. It may get me a decent house. This problem extends to all properties. There are safeguards that can be implemented so that this does not happen but only if such safeguards are in place concurrent to the onset of property taxes.

Then there is family land. My son's grandpa died years ago and the property was never probated. My son, as half-Chamorro, is a potential heir to a large section of land on Saipan. And so is his mother, her sisters, her brothers, his cousins, nieces, etc. If the value of that land ever reaches a level where probate would result in a positive financial settlement for my son, see you in court. There are many such situations in the CNMI. As the value of land escalates, family members will be going to probate court and fighting to get their inheritance.

What about section 8 housing? If you could sell your rental for \$100K, would you? Rental properties would be selling left and right. Great for the owner (maybe) but for the poor souls that got kicked out, where will they live? Apartments will be sold. Rents will increase. Some upscale apartments will be converted to condos or timeshares. Repeal of Article 12 will result in a lack of affordable housing for the low wage working class even if the minimum wage increases to \$10-15 an hour. Unlike low wage workers in most countries who can move to the outskirts of a city to find cheap living quarters, low wage workers here must leave the island if they can, or get a raise. We will have homeless indigenous families and homeless non-resident workers if Article 12 is repealed.

Repeal of Article 12 will have many problems that must be resolved before it is repealed. Given the historical procrastination and inability to deal with any real problems by our elected representatives, the problems will be debated for years and never resolved. The repeal of Article 12 will result in wealthy people/investors taking control of the CNMI, just like the garment industry did. Big money talks loudly and elected officials everywhere, not just in the CNMI, tend to listen to the speaker. Years ago the late great comedian Will Rogers was asked what he thought is the best investment. He replied, "Buy real estate, they ain't making any more of that." They still ain't making any more of that. Leave Article 12 alone.

Brad Doerr
San Roque, Saipan

US economic outlook in today's Chamber meeting

An economist who is currently engaged by First Hawaiian Bank is set to discuss the economic outlook for the U.S. mainland and Hawaii in today's general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

In particular, Dr. Leroy Laney will speak about how the Guam and CNMI economies will be impacted by current uncertainties in the U.S. economy.

The Chamber's general membership meeting will take place today, March 28, at Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall.

Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese said the monthly meeting has been altered slightly from the usual first-Wednesday-of-the-month schedule in order to accommodate Laney's schedule, who is on-island for a brief visit.

Registration and buffet lunch begins at 11:30am and the meeting will begin at noon. Members will be charged \$15 per person; guests of members, \$20; and general public, \$25.

Laney, a professor of Economics and Finance at the Hawaii Pacific University, joined the HPU faculty as a Full Professor in 1998, after broad ranging experience in banking, government, and other academic positions.

He has served as a Staff Economist on the U.S. President's Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, D.C., as an International Economist with the U.S. Treasury in Washington, and as a Senior Economist in the Federal Reserve System.

His academic experience includes adjunct teaching positions at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas (Arlington and Dallas campuses), and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also held a joint appointment in the Economics and Finance Departments at Butler University in Indianapolis during the 1989-1990 academic year, and served there as Chairman of the Economics Department.

From 1990 through 1998, his position was Senior Vice President and Chief Economist for First Hawaiian Bank in Honolulu. There, he held a highly visible position as the Bank's spokesman on all international, national, and local economic matters. He has served as Chairman of the Council on Revenues of the State of Hawaii, and as a member of the Market Research Committee of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Professor Laney has published widely in academic journals, Federal Reserve and other bank publications, and in edited volumes and conference proceedings.

He remains a Consultant to First Hawaiian Bank, and has also consulted with—among others—the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., Matson Navigation Company, Colliers Monroe and Friedlander,

The Estate of James Campbell, the Waikiki Improvement Association, Kohala Coast Resort Association, Kobayashi, Sugita &

Goda law firm, the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of Hawaii, and the County of Hawaii.

His Ph.D. in Economics is

from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech, and an

MBA in accounting and finance from Emory University.

From 1967 to 1971, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy

Supply Corps. Dr. Laney is married to the former Sandra Prescott of Atlanta, and has two adult sons. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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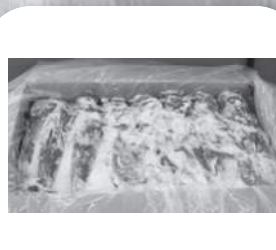
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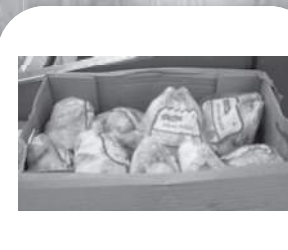
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\$1⁹⁹



Ichiban Tuna 12 oz.

80¢

FROZEN



**Beef Shortribs
US**

\$3⁶⁹
/lb.



**Bar S Bacon
1#**

\$2⁹⁹



**Beef Ribeye
Commercial**

\$3⁵⁹
/lb.



Tilapia

99¢
/lb.



**Pike Mackarel
(Sanma)**

\$3⁷⁹
/pk.

PRODUCE



**US Yellow
Onion**

47¢
/lb.



**Potato
Russet**

65¢
/lb.



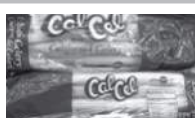
Green Cabbage

79¢
/lb.



Danjou Pear

\$1⁵⁴
/lb.



Celery Sleeve

95¢
/lb.

THE BAKE/DELI SHOPPE

Oven Fresh Bakery

**Pullman
Bread**

\$1⁶⁰

**Hamburger
Buns**

\$1⁶⁰

**Baked Chicken
Whole**

\$7⁰⁰
ea.

THE LIQUOR SHOPPE

The Largest Selection of Wine & Liquor

**Santa Digna
Sauv Blanc
750 ml.**

\$8⁹⁰

**Geikkakan
Taruzake
500 ml.**

\$8⁹⁹

**McCormick
Vodka
750 ml.**

\$9⁸⁹

**Bud / Budlight 24/12 oz.
(Warm)**

\$22⁹⁹
/cs.

Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm
*While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Foodstamp Shoppers Welcome • We are not responsible for typographical errors.

PROMOTION

Dirk Thomas Camacho Mag'Atas, who serves in Iraq with his fellow Marines, has been promoted to the rank of corporal. He is shown here receiving his certificate of promotion. Mag'Atas is the son of Diana Taitano Camacho of Dandan, Saipan.

Both his Mom and sister, Carrie, joins the rest of the Tako families in congratulating him on his promotion. God Bless Dirk and all our soldiers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Report: US children are victims of sex trafficking

WASHINGTON—Shared Hope International has identified a startling trend: American children are victims of the sex trade and they are being trafficked within the United States. SHI research reveals that Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, or DMST, is a critical problem in many locations across the U.S.

Human rights investigations by SHI have verified that disturbing numbers of American children are lured and forced into prostitution. These innocent victims are supplying a demand for paid sex, a human commodity that SHI investigators find horrifyingly easy to buy.

"If you pay the price you can get what you want, and I can get it for you. Now if you want something really young, that \$200, it's just going to cost you a little bit more than that," a trafficker says to an undercover SHI investigator.

American children are prostituted by pimps on the streets, sold over the Internet, and exploited through pornography and strip dancing. The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act provides that any minor exploited in the commercial sex market is a trafficking victim... yet SHI has identified trafficked children incarcerated across the country for prostitution and related charges.

"I always felt like a criminal. I never felt like a victim at all," says "Tonya," a teenage trafficking victim who was lured into prostitution by a pimp at age 12. "Victims don't do time in jail, they work on the healing process. I was a criminal because I spent time in jail."

SHI has found that these

children are often labeled as "child prostitutes." In the few instances they are properly identified as victims there are no protective shelter options and they are often placed in detention facilities with children who have committed serious offenses.

"At an average age of 12 these children are lured and snatched by traffickers. It is a severe injustice when American girls are held in physical and mental slavery and then punished for the crime that is committed against them," said SHI president and founder Linda Smith.

SHI was awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to conduct field assessments in 10 U.S. locations examining two critical issues: the identification of DMST victims and the service delivery to these victims. The assessments will be released starting the last week of March.

The locations include: Las Vegas, NV; Clearwater, FL; New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA; Dallas, TX; Independence, MO; Ft Worth, TX; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; San Antonio, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; and Buffalo, NY.

Shared Hope International rescues and restores women and children in crisis. For almost a decade, SHI has worked around the world in partnership with local groups to prevent trafficking and to rescue and restore the victims of sexual slavery, bringing hope to women and children everywhere. For more information visit <http://www.shared-hope.org>. (PRNewswire)



Now accepting applications for School Year 2008-2009

- ✓ Accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- ✓ Standards-based curriculum in compliance with No Child Left-Behind Act
- ✓ Ongoing assessment for continuous student improvement
- ✓ College preparatory program in the high school
- ✓ State of the art facilities
- ✓ Wide selection of extra and co-curricular activities
- ✓ Welcoming community where everyone belongs
- ✓ Christian values within a Catholic identity



Stop by and pick up an application today! For more information, call 235-1251.

Since 1952, continuing a tradition of Faith, Excellence, and Success

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2001 HONDA CIVIC

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam credit Department at telephone number (670) 233-5000 extension 205, 206, 207 and 208.

Bids will be closed on

Friday, March 28, 2008
at **6:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GUAM
THE PEOPLE'S BANK

Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

TOYS
10% - 30%
OFF

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

18TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS
10% - 25%
OFF

MARCH 28 - APRIL 27, 2008 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Leg Quarter

22 LBS. **\$16⁹⁹**
33 LBS. **\$22⁹⁹**

Whole Chicken

LIMIT 1 CASE
\$33⁹⁹

Young Spare Ribs

10 LBS.
\$15⁹⁵

Spare Ribs

20 LBS.
\$12⁹⁹

Diamond G Calrose Rice

LIMIT 2 SACKS
50 LBS. **\$19⁹⁹**

Beef Spare Ribs

20 LBS.
\$17⁹⁹

Pork Riblets

10 LBS.
\$10⁹⁹

Whole Horse Mackerel

22 LBS.
\$19⁹⁹

Turkey Tail

20 LBS.
\$12⁹⁹

Jasmine Lotus Rice

50 LBS.
\$17⁹⁹

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Kool-Aid

32 oz.
\$6⁹⁹

Tang

22 qts.
\$5⁹⁹

Nestea Iced Tea

36 qts.
\$7⁹⁹

Spam All Kinds

12 oz. LIMIT 12
\$1⁸⁹

Sun Flower

Mackerel 15 oz.
\$1³⁹

Coco Tuna

LIMIT 12 Cans
89¢

Beach Cliff Sardines

3.75 oz.
79¢

Coffee-Mate

Creamer 50 oz.
\$6⁹⁵

Folgers Classic

Roast 39 oz.
\$6⁹⁹

Ocean Best Crabmeat

Imitation 1 lb.
\$1⁷⁹

Ox & Palm Corned

Beef 11.5 oz.
\$1⁹⁹

Golden State Vinegar

1 Gal.
\$2⁵⁹

Campbells Chicken

Noodle Soup 10.7 oz.
89¢

Carnation Evaporated

Milk 12 oz.
99¢

Ground Beef

5 LBS. **\$8⁹⁹**
10 LBS. **\$16⁹⁵**

Pike Mackerel

Family Bag
\$5⁹⁵

Mackerel

Family Bag
\$5⁹⁵

Cream of Mushroom

10 3/4 oz.
99¢

DM Beef Stew

15 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

One Whole Chicken

50 oz.
\$4⁹⁹

Ace of Diamonds Tuna

LIMIT 12 Cans
99¢

Gusto Ham

10 lbs.
\$16⁹⁹

Miller Sausage

5 lbs.
\$14⁹⁵

Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot

1 lb.
\$3⁹⁹

Black Label Luncheon Meat

12 oz.
\$1³⁹

Hormel Vienna

Sausage 5 oz.
59¢

Hormel Chili

No Beans 15 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Mary Kitchen Corned

Beef Hash 15 oz.
\$1⁷⁹

Bar-S Bacon

1 lb.
\$2³⁹

Bar-S Hotdog

1 lb.
99¢

Bar-S Ham

10 lbs.
\$15⁹⁹

Real Fresh Milk

(Reg. & Low Fat)
\$16⁹⁹ /CASE

Pickles Vlasic

Whole Dill 1 Gal.
\$4⁹⁹

Vlasic Dill Pickles

(Spears) 1 Gal.
\$5⁹⁹

Moist Deluxe All Flavors

18.25 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Peeled Shrimp

SC Brand 1 lb.
\$2³⁹

Seafood Mix Log

Feng Brand 1 lb.
\$2⁵⁹

Blue Crab Section

Per Box
\$8⁹⁵

Kikkoman

1.6 L.
\$3⁷⁹

Lemon Powder

5.29 oz.
\$4⁹⁵

Vegetable Oil

5 Gal. LIMIT 1
\$28⁹⁹

Crisco Shortening

3 lbs.
\$3⁹⁹

Vega Shrimp

1 lb.
\$5⁵⁰

Green Mussels

2 lbs.
\$4⁵⁰

Milk Fish

\$1²⁹

Gold Medal Flour

5 lbs.
\$2²⁹

Sugar

2 kg.
\$1⁶⁹

Maseca Corn

Flour 4.4 lbs.
\$2⁹⁹

Zee Napkin

360 cnts.
\$3⁵⁹

Tilapia

89¢

U.S. Extra Large Eggs

Dozen
\$2⁶⁹

Chicken Wings

5.5 lbs.
\$10⁹⁹

Ichiban

Limit 2 CASES
\$7⁹⁹ /CASE

Morton Iodized

Salt 26 oz.
59¢

Argo Corn Starch

89¢

Bounty Basic

8 Roll
\$8⁹⁹

Kraft Cool Whip

8 OZ. **\$1⁹⁹**
16 OZ. **\$2⁹⁹**

Candle Plain

White Only
\$12⁹⁵ /CASE

Horse Shampoo

1 qt.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Korean Butane Gas

LIMIT 1 Case
\$18⁹⁹ /CASE

Aluminum Foil

200 Sq. Ft.
\$4⁹⁹

Niagara Drinking Water

24/500 ml.
\$7⁹⁹ /CASE

Spoon & Fork No Brand

Name 100 cnts.
99¢

Garlic

\$8⁹⁹ /BUNDLE

Onion

\$7⁹⁹ /PER POUND

Crisco Pure Corn Oil

1 Gal.
\$8⁹⁹

Crisco Veg. Oil

1 GAL.
\$7⁹⁹

Philadelphia Cream Cheese

\$2³⁹

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only

\$5⁹⁹

Enfamil with Iron

8 oz./Case
\$36⁹⁹

Enfamil

25.7
\$26⁹⁹

Coke Regular

24/Case Warm Only
\$12⁹⁹

Pepsi Regular

Warm Only
\$12⁹⁹ /CASE

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS) **\$4.50**
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS) **\$8.99**
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS) **\$16.95**
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.) **\$16.95**
GAIN LIQUID (200 OZ.) ORIGINAL ONLY **\$11.95**
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.) **\$6.99**
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.) **2 FOR \$3.00**

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK **\$10.95**
FLANK STEAK **\$16.95**
PORK ADOBO **\$10.95**
PORK CHOP **\$11.95**
PORK BELLY **\$11.95**
STEWING CHICKEN **\$6.95**
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG) **\$4.99**

U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS

BEEF BACK RIBS **\$7.95**
BEEF OXTAIL **\$16.95**
BEEF STEW **\$12.95**
RIBEYE STEAK **\$17.95**
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK **\$14.95**
SMOKED HAM STEAK **\$12.95**
PORK BUTT **\$10.95**

Budweiser / Budlight

24/Case Warm Only
\$22⁹⁹

Chamorro Punch

1 Gal.
\$8⁹⁹

Undersea miner begins Tonga exploration

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Nautilus Minerals Inc. started the first stage of its mineral exploration for high-grade minerals in Tongan waters today.

The Country Manager of Nautilus Minerals in Tonga, Paula Taumoepeau, said that an exploration ship the Kilo Moana from the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetary of the University of Hawaii arrived at the Port of Nuku'alofa on March 22 to conduct surveys.

He said the will conduct its own routine marine research

but at the same time is being contracted by Nautilus to conduct surveys.

"We are working together with this first exploration ship with 10 scientists and we have one worker who sailed with them this morning to begin the study for us," he said.

Paula added the first phase would involve the mapping and surveying of the seafloor, environmental monitoring, oceanographic work and water quality studies of the specific areas that they are exploring.

The exploration is being held in the seabed area known

as the Lau Basin, which is about 100 kilometres from Nuku'alofa at the depth of about 2,000 metres.

Paula said this phase is set to finish before the end of April and the data or results will be taken for analysis before the company decided on the next stage.

He also emphasized that this is one of many phases to come in the exploration stage, which will take years to complete.

"But we believe there are minerals under the Tonga waters and the exploration will tell us whether or not minerals exist on the seafloor and if the miner-

als are available in commercial quantity that can be mined at a profit," he said.

No mining at this stage

He also clarified at this stage they are only an exploration company with rights to explore offshore for minerals within certain areas of the Tongan waters.

"Because we have only an exploration licence we cannot do any mining at this stage, so as an explorer we gather data and information, by conducting different types of surveys and studies," he emphasized.

Paula also said it is important to realize that explora-

tion is a low impact activity but if they do find minerals in commercial quantity during the exploration or prospecting phase, they intend to apply to the government for a mining licence.

"This is the first exploration ship which will be followed by many more and bigger ships that we will contract to come down in a couple of months and

in the next phases from different companies," he said.

At this stage we are currently advertising for local geologists to join the Nautilus Inc. and applications will be closed at the end of the month.

Nautilus Minerals Inc is a Canadian registered company that was issued a licence to explore for minerals in Tonga in December last year.

Solomons to phase out logging

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (SIBC/PIR)—Solomon Islands will start to see a decline of log export revenue as of next year.

This is according to the minister of Finance Snyder Rini when he tabled this year's national budget in Parliament yesterday.

Rini says by 2013, the industry will no longer exist to generate foreign revenue for the country.

He says over the years, Solomon Islands had been depending on log export revenue to

finance its services.

Rini says log exports make up 70 percent of the country's foreign revenue and 17 percent of the country's national income.

Environmentalists and Central bank has been echoing the concern to diversify the country's export over the years instead of depending on log exports.

Government is looking at other sources of revenue to make up for the loss including the tourism sector, fisheries and agriculture.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Rapa Nui tourist vandalizes ancient statue

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Police in Chile say they're holding a Finnish tourist for breaking off part of the ear of an ancient statue on Easter Island. The 25-year old man was caught by local residents when he broke off the piece which he reportedly wanted as a souvenir. He faces possible jail time or a fine for damaging the moai. Easter Island is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Crocodile attacks on rise in Solomons' Choiseul

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (SIBC/PIR)—A Choiseul Province community coordinator, Harrison Benjamin, says the country's conservation policy of protecting crocodiles and the withdrawal of licensed guns have resulted in the loss of lives. Benjamin of Posarae Village in South Choiseul says a crocodile of about 12 feet attacked a seven-year old girl while her mother and two younger brothers looked on helplessly. He says the incident happened early this month at Posarae Village. Benjamin says the victim was later found about one and half kilometer away from where she was attacked but without the her head and left hand. He says the incident was the fourth where a crocodile attacked a child in South Choiseul.

PNG police torch cult village

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Military officers engaged in the State of Emergency in Northern Province ordered the burning of rest houses belonging to the members of Puwo Gave Movement in Uvato Village, inland Ambasi. The officers said the members of the sectarian movement were an obstruction to the relief efforts especially when they were blocking supplies to designated areas claiming the relief supplies were sent to them by their dead relatives. Ambasi Ward 11 Councilor Alexander Ombeba described the house as a large house built on 60 posts and containing 18 rooms that represented each village in the Ambasi area to accommodate their dead relatives after their return in 2010 as they predicted.

Cook Islands bakers hurt by New Zealand imports

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands Bakery Association is calling on the government to subsidize locally baked bread. Recently, some supermarkets have started to import bread from New Zealand, which is cheaper. The Association's president, who's also the managing director of the Avarua bakery, says locally made bread sells for 3.40 US dollars, while the imported variety costs only 2.80 US dollars. Kervin Aroita says local bakeries need help to survive. Kervin Aroita is also urging consumers to buy local bread to prevent job losses.

ISLA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.

FOR RENT

3-BEDROOM NEWLY RENOVATED SEMI-CONCRETE HOUSE

in San Vicente very near San Vicente Elementary School.

1-BEDROOM CONCRETE HOUSE

in Tanapag, across I-Mart. Very big yard.

4-BEDROOM EXECUTIVE HOUSE

in San Vicente, near Dandan Elementary School. The house is spacious, newly renovated, with 3 baths, and big yard includes a room for a house worker.

If interested, please call DEO MANESE of ISLA Property Management, Inc. at 234-6445 extension 584.

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the general public that **Darlene Aldan** is no longer employed by Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect and no longer has any affiliation to this company. Any transaction made by her on behalf of this company will not be honored.

The Management
Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to April 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

- A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
- B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
- C. Contested Cases
- D. Old Business
 1. Discussion about establishment of Adult Business Overlay Zoning Districts
- E. New Business
 1. Public Hearings:
 - a. 2008-0310 for construction of a beach concession on the beach near Aquarius Beach Tower, Chalan Kanoa.
 2. Permits: review and decide
 - a. No. 2008-0302 for construction of a golf hotel, villas and staff housing located at the LaoLao Golf Course, Kagman
 - b. No. 2008-0310 for construction of a beach concession on the beach near Aquarius Beach Tower, Chalan Kanoa.
 3. Discussion about amendment of the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps
- F. Public Comment
- G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
- H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Change to Date of Public Hearing U.C. Corp Beach Concession

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0310, by U.C. Corp. The application is for construction of a beach concession stand for rental of non-motorized watercraft on the beach near Lot 006 H 35, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

Date: April 10, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, April 10, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**MMAC Coin Drive fundraiser today**

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Hyatt will be doing a Coin Drive fundraiser today, March 28, at 4pm, at the Microl Toyota intersection in San Jose to help in the fight against cancer.

The MMAC Committee and Team Hyatt are urging the community to support the battle against this terrible affliction by driving by and donating whatever they can to support Team Hyatt's fundraising efforts. All proceeds will go toward the fight against cancer.

For more information contact Jerry Escota at jescota@hyatt-saipan.com or via telephone at 234-1234 extension 24.

For more MMAC information email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. (PR)

Junior High Mock Trial tomorrow

The CNMI Humanities Council will be hosting a Junior High Mock Trial tomorrow, March 29, 9am to noon at the U.S. District Court chamber, Horiguchi Building, Garapan.

Six junior high school teams will participate in a non-competitive trial presided over by Rep. Joseph Camacho (R-Saipan).

This program, started by the council two years ago, is intended to introduce junior high school students to the mock trial program in an enjoyable format to prepare them for the competitive mock trial program that they will encounter in high school.

Flame Tree Arts Festival registration opens

Registration is now open until April 17, 2008, for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. Registration forms are available

at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill, Saipan. Registration costs are \$650/food and business vendors, \$350/non-profit, \$150/artists, and \$100/information. The Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held April 24-27, 2008, at Civic Center and is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration. For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact CCAC at 670-322-9982/3 or e-mail marianasarts@pticom.com.

Let Freedom Sing festival set

The CNMI's cultural diversity will take center stage during the Let Freedom Sing festival on March 29-30, 10am to 5pm daily at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The festival will showcase live performances of ethnic songs and demonstrations of cultural practices and traditions.

Positions open for GOP national convention

The CNMI Republican Party is pleased to announce the availability of the following positions for interested individuals from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in the upcoming Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota from Sept. 1 to 5, 2008.

The following programs are available:

- Page program—applicant must be at least 16-25 years old;
- Intern program—applicant must be currently enrolled at any postsecondary educational institution; and
- Delegate aide—applicant must be able to assist the delegation and be at all meetings called by the chairman.

All expenses to attend the RNC convention must be the responsibility of the applicant.

Interested individuals must submit a letter of intent, resume, and complete an application. Deadline is April 15, 2008.

Final selection will be made by the RNC Committee on Arrangements. Submit the required documents through email at anaretegeyo@gmail.com. (PR)

Petition to graduate deadline extended

The Northern Marianas College has extended the deadline for the submission of petitions to graduate for Spring 2008. The new deadline is March 28, 2008. Any questions or concerns regarding the Spring 2008 graduation can be addressed to Rosaline Cepeda, Acting Director of the Office of Admissions and Records, at 234-5498 ext 1540 or email roselinec@nmcnet.edu.

English placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be administering the English Placement Tests on the following dates:

■ April 2, 2008, 9am - 12pm, Room: D-1

■ April 4, 2008, 4pm - 7pm, Room: D-1

Bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment. For more information, call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2000 or 1242. (NMC)

MHS Class of '83 reunion reminder

The Marianas High School's Class of 1983 Reunion Committee would like to remind everyone that March 31 is just around

the corner. Those who have not purchased event tickets are reminded to purchase one on or before March 31, 2008 to avoid paying an extra \$5 at the door.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details: Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665; Viola Kaipat at 483-0214; Ed Camacho at 483-5262; Jane Tudela at 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo at 236-9777; Ben Sablan at 287-1480; or Diego Songsong at 287-4300. (PR)

Oleai Elementary School registration

The Oleai Elementary School said that the registration for all incoming Kindergartens for school year 2008-09 will be from April 1 to April 30, 2008. Students entering Kindergarten must have been born between Sept. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2003.

For new first grade and trans-

fer students (grades 1 to 6th), registration will be in June to July 2008.

Documents required for registration are:

- Birth certificate (from the court)
- School entrance health certificate (updated)
- Current school accident/health insurance coverage/Medicaid card (updated)
- Residency map
- Legal adoption/guardianship documents (if applicable)
- Valid CNMI entry permit (if applicable)

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, north of Island Market to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai).

For more information, call the school at 664-3942. (PR)



7th ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC



TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 5, 2008
Marianas Country Club
Show Time 6:30 a.m. / Shotgun Start 7:30 a.m.
Entry forms: Available at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel and HANMI members.
Tournament Fee: \$99.00 / \$110 after April 1 inclusive of Green Fee, Prizes, Awards, Banquet
Maximum entries: 144 players
Additional banquet guests \$20 per person

<p>PRIZES CHAMPIONSHIP, SENIORS, A, B & C FLIGHTS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>First Place:</td> <td>\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Place:</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Place:</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Ladies Double Peoria :</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st</td> <td>\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> </table>	First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy	Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy	Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy	Ladies Double Peoria :		1st	\$500.00 plus trophy	2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy	3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy	<p>FLIGHT CATEGORIES</p> <p>Championship A - Flight B - Flight C - Flight Seniors (Age 50+) Ladies</p>
First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy														
Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy														
Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy														
Ladies Double Peoria :															
1st	\$500.00 plus trophy														
2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy														
3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy														

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Business

Micronesia leads world in eliminating paper tickets

...as Continental and IATA achieve full e-ticketing

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Continental Micronesia announced yesterday that it has achieved 100 percent implementation of electronic ticketing in the region, contributing to the Micronesia market's outstanding feat of eliminating paper tickets completely.



Airline ticketing is processed through the International Air Transport Association clear-

inghouse called Billing and Settlement Plan in each country and territory.

"This market is the first in the world to attain 100 percent e-ticketing," said Continental Micronesia director for Asia and Micronesia Sales and Marketing David Kendell. BSP operates in about 160 countries and territories.

Continental Micronesia

played a large role in helping the region achieve a paperless environment since the airline produces the largest share of total tickets. Beginning June 1, 2008, airlines around the world will not accept other airlines' paper tickets issued after June 1. Passengers connecting on two or more airlines with a flight segment issued on a paper ticket will encounter problems when continuing on their journey on to another airline.

"Many customers are already familiar with electronic ticketing, so we expect any inconvenience to be at a minimum," said Kendell.

Customers who purchase airline tickets from a travel agency will receive a paper receipt and a print out of their itinerary; however, coupons will no longer be issued for flight segments.

Electronic ticketing is replacing how airlines conduct business globally. IATA, an organization that governs all airlines, has mandated a June 1, 2008 deadline for all billing and settlement plan and indus-

try settlement plan to eliminate paper tickets. Travel agents and airline carriers transact business through BSP and ISP. Together, the BSP/ISP members in Micronesia have improved internal processes and communications to meet the IATA initiative two months ahead of schedule and will no longer issue paper tickets after March 31, 2008.

IATA developed the commercial standards of today's aviation industry and requires that its 240 member airlines transition into issuing electronic tickets by December 2007, but extended the deadline to May 31, 2008. Last December 2007, however, the region's electronic

ticket issuance was at 99 percent. IATA hopes to save the airline industry up to \$3 billion annually with its goal of eliminating paper tickets.

E-ticketing is one of the most significant opportunities to reduce costs and improve passenger convenience. It reduces ticket processing charges, eliminates the need for paper and allows greater flexibility to the passenger and the travel agent to make changes to the itinerary.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. **(Continental)**

Oil prices jump on inventory report

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices soared more than \$4 a barrel Wednesday as two big market drivers—lower than expected fuel inventories and another slide in the dollar—had traders buying in force for the first time in a week.

Prices rose across the energy spectrum, marking a reversal in sentiment from last week when falling demand for oil, gasoline and other fuels and a strengthening dollar pulled oil down nearly 10 percent from a record near \$112.

The Energy Department's En-

ergy Information Administration said Wednesday that gasoline and distillate supplies, which include heating oil and diesel fuel, dropped much more than forecast last week, while crude oil inventories were unchanged. Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had expected crude supplies to rise by 1.7 million barrels.

Investors were already buying oil before the release of the report; the falling dollar, which was hurt Wednesday by disappointing economic data, again raised oil's appeal as a hedge against inflation.

At the pump, gas prices rose 0.6 cent overnight to a national average of \$3.261 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices have slid recently from a record of \$3.285 a gallon set last week, largely because of oil's decline last week.

But with oil now on the rebound, gas prices could rise further. The Consumer Federation of America predicted Wednesday that prices could jump another 75 cents a gallon over the next two months if refiners continue cutting production.

Federal jury convicts Nat'l Century exec

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A federal jury on Wednesday convicted the founder of a failed health care company of trying to bribe a witness in an upcoming \$1.9 billion fraud trial.

The jury took one day to deliver its decision against Lance Poulsen, former chief executive officer of National Century Financial Enterprises, described as the nation's largest health care financing firm before its 2002 bankruptcy.

Poulsen was accused of offer-

ing a former company executive \$500,000 to give misleading testimony during Poulsen's fraud trial scheduled for August.



Poulsen

The executive, Sherry Gibson, told jurors that Karl Demmler, a long time friend to her and Poulsen, told her that Poulsen "wanted to make me whole."

The jury also convicted Demmler, who prosecutors had accused of acting as an intermediary for Poulsen to contact Gibson.

Poulsen said Gibson misunderstood his attempts to help

her. He said he was only trying to provide her with a new attorney because he believed she'd been wrongly convicted based on bad legal advice.

Gibson pleaded guilty in 2003 for her role in the National Century fraud case in exchange for cooperating with prosecutors.

Poulsen and Demmler face up to 35 years in prison for their convictions on all counts of an indictment alleging conspiracy, witness tampering and obstruction of justice. U.S. District Judge Algenon Marbley ordered Demmler taken into custody. Poulsen has been held in a jail in Chillicothe.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ford sells Jaguar, Land Rover to Tata

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. is selling its storied Jaguar and Land Rover businesses to India's Tata Motors Ltd. in a deal that will net the U.S. automaker \$1.7 billion—roughly a third of the price it paid for the two luxury brands. The deal announced Wednesday will expand the Indian carmaker's reach around the globe and give Jaguar and Land Rover badly needed capital to update and expand their product lines. The sale had been in the works for months as cash-strapped Ford sought money to fund its turnaround plan. Tata will pay \$2.3 billion for the British brands, but Ford will pay about \$600 million into the Jaguar-Land Rover pension fund when the deal closes, Tata's statement said. Ford bought Jaguar for \$2.5 billion in 1989 and Land Rover for \$2.7 billion in 2000.

Citi settles Enron suit for \$1.66B

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup Inc. agreed Wednesday to pay \$1.66 billion to creditors of Enron Corp. who lost money when the energy trader collapsed in 2001. Citigroup was the last re-

maining defendant in what was known as the "Mega Claims" lawsuit, a bankruptcy suit filed in 2003 against 11 banks and brokerages. The filer, called Enron Creditors Recovery Corp., alleges that with the help of banks like Citigroup, Enron kept creditors in the dark about the company's financial troubles by using shady accounting. Wednesday's settlement—plus previous bank settlements and Enron's subsequent release of \$1.7 billion held in reserves—gives those creditors more than \$5 billion, Enron said. That amounts to 37.4 cents on each dollar the creditors had tied up in Enron, according to Enron.

Motorola to break into 2 companies

CHICAGO (AP)—Motorola Inc. bowed to pressure from investors Wednesday, announcing a plan to split its struggling cell phone business from other operations to form two separate publicly traded companies. The widely expected deal comes as the suburban Chicago cell phone maker faces a second straight year of agitation from billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who has become increasingly frustrated with Motorola's erod-

ing phone sales. Executives said the move will allow the two companies to better focus on their respective strengths and weaknesses, while accelerating the turnaround plan for the cell phone unit, which has seen its fortunes slip after trend-conscious customers lost interest in the Razr flip phone.

American cancels about 300 flights

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—American Airlines canceled about 300 flights Wednesday so its crews could inspect some wire bundles aboard its MD-80 aircraft. The canceled flights represent about 13 percent of the estimated 2,300 flights that the nation's biggest airline had scheduled for the day. The highest concentrations of the cancellations were in the airline's hubs at Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago O'Hare international airports. American initially put the number of cancellations at 200, but spokesman Tim Wagner said that was a conservative estimate because the airline prefers to hold off on cancellations as long as possible. The entire fleet of MD-80s is being inspected, Wagner said.

Co-worker conflict: Try talking it through first

By LILY GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A reader writes:
"I think I'm getting bullied

here at my small nonprofit. I work with two men of a different race, who will pull me into the office and tell me that things are 'not the same' since

I started, essentially I messed up their setup, making them look bad. Just yesterday, there was another 'come to Jesus' meeting where one accused me of racism towards him, which is not true. It's so messed up. The director of the agency is not on-site, believes everything these two tell her and I don't know what to do. I want to have a witness present for when they decide to pull me into these clear-the-air meetings so I can remember all the things they say to me."

If you think that you are possibly being discriminated

against because of your race or your sex, you should complain to the appropriate internal contact as specified in your organization's EEO policy. If you do not have such a policy in place, which would not be unusual for a very small organization, you should bring your concerns to your manager, the director or your human resources contact. Even if a single person is playing all three of these roles, I recommend the same course of action.

Also remember that you have a choice about whether to participate in these meetings. If you feel like the meetings are unpro-

ductive or belittling, you can refuse them or take measures to control the interactions. For example, ask for an agenda or propose agenda items of your own. As well, you can terminate the meeting at any point if it makes you uncomfortable.

I agree that you should be documenting your interactions in some way. But I think that bringing a witness with you would be an overly confrontational way of accomplishing this. Try making contemporaneous notes while in the meeting. If you feel overwhelmed and unable to write everything down, take some time immediately after the meeting to

quickly memorialize anything you might have missed.

I must also mention that it might be helpful for you to ask these co-workers about their motivations before escalating the matter any further. It may be implicit from your note that this approach has failed you, or that you think it would be futile. You may find, however, that you are able to significantly diffuse the tension with these two simply by calling them on what they are doing.

Who knows? They might be surprised to learn that you experience their behavior in this way. Before you give up on the situation, you owe it to yourself and to your co-workers to try talking it through.

Job offer scams

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Job offer scams have common traits, making them relatively easy to spot. To protect yourself from such rip-offs, avoid any job ad that promises "quick and easy income." Likewise, avoid those that ask you to pay a fee to apply or buy special supplies from them in order to start work. And, be especially wary of an "employer" who wants your Social Security number when you apply. That's information that shouldn't be shared unless the employer needs to perform a background check, or is ready to

start issuing you paychecks.

When your boss calls you into her office, do you always bring a pen and paper? Relying on your memory might be fine 99 percent of the time, but that 1 percent it fails could really get you in trouble. Taking good notes doesn't mean you have to scribble down every word at meetings, but you should make note of any tasks you've been assigned and their deadlines. Develop a system for incorporating those items to your to-do list, and you'll never have to bug your boss with another "so when did you say that was due ..." again.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Taxes not done? Don't panic

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you're down to the wire and haven't finished your taxes, there's still time to get it done. It's important to file on time because penalties and interest accrue if you don't. The meter starts running the day taxes are due, and they can add up to 25 percent of your tax bill.

Here are some ways to get your taxes done at the last minute:

■ Take your taxes to a tax preparer. Call ahead of time to see if there's a long wait. Ask how long before your return can be completed.

■ The IRS has the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, where you can get free basic tax preparation if you can be considered low or moderate income (approximately \$40,000). Call 1-800-829-1040 for a location near you.

■ If you're age 60 or older, consider the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. For more information on TCE, call 1-800-829-1040. Also consider the AARP Tax-Aide program for seniors. Call 1-888-227-7669 for information.

■ You can call the IRS for help with filling out the forms (1-800-829-1040) or visit a Taxpayer Assistance Center near you. The IRS Web site has a locator to find the center closest to you with addresses and phone numbers. Call in advance to ask about its hours. If you go that route, take everything you might need—Social Security numbers of dependents, W-2 Forms and so on. Be sure to write down the name and employee number of the agent who helps complete your return.

■ Grab tax-prep software from an office-supply store and start

plugging in your numbers. Remember to let the program get the form updates online. Read the computer requirements on the box to make sure your machine can handle the software.

■ Use the IRS software FreeFile, available at www.irs.gov, to prepare and e-file if your adjusted gross income was less than \$54,000.

If all else fails and you cannot get your taxes finished in time, file a Form 4868 to get a six-month extension of time for filing.

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Nation

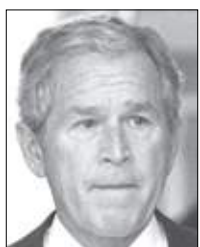
Military tells Bush of troop strains

WASHINGTON (AP)—Behind the Pentagon's closed doors, U.S. military leaders told President Bush Wednesday they are worried about the Iraq war's mounting strain on troops and their families. But they indicated they'd go along with a brief halt in pulling out troops this summer.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff

did say senior commanders in Iraq should make more frequent assessments of security conditions, an idea that appeared aimed at increasing pressure for more rapid troop reductions.

The chiefs' concern is that separate attacks in Baghdad,



Bush

U.S. forces are being worn thin, compromising the Pentagon's ability to handle crises elsewhere in the world.

In the war zone itself, two more American soldiers were killed Wednesday in the capital by rounds that ap-

raising the U.S. death toll to at least 4,003, according to an Associated Press count. Volleys of rockets also slammed into Baghdad's Green Zone for the third day this week, and the U.S. Embassy said three Americans were seriously wounded. At least eight Iraqis were killed elsewhere in the capital by rounds that ap-

parently fell short.

Wednesday's 90-minute Pentagon session, held in a secure conference room known as "the Tank," was arranged by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to provide Bush an additional set of military views as he prepares to decide how to proceed in Iraq once his troop buildup, which began in 2007,

runs its course by July.

"Armed with all that, the president must now decide the way ahead in Iraq," said Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell. The discussion covered not only Iraq but Afghanistan, where violence has spiked, and broader military matters, said Morrell, who briefed reporters without giving details of the discussion. Some specifics were provided by defense officials, commenting on condition of anonymity in order to speak more freely.

Pilot survives crash, frigid Mont. night

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—A student pilot whose plane crashed into a snowy mountain-side survived a freezing night by wrapping himself in a tarp, then hiked a mile through waist-deep snow in shorts to meet rescuers, aviation and rescue officials said Wednesday.

The student, whose name was not released, crashed about 40 miles south of Billings on Tuesday night and was rescued about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. He was taken to a Billings hospital with hypothermia but did not appear to have any major injuries, said Jon Trapp, one of the pilot's rescuers.

"He ended up hiking quite a ways in his shorts and tennis shoes, in waist-high snow. He was very cold and cut up by the time we found a place to land and could hike into him," said Trapp, assistant coordinator of Carbon County Search and Rescue.

The small plane crashed into a forested slope on Big Pryor Mountain during a solo training flight from Billings to Pryor, Wyo.

The Rocky Mountain College student stayed with the 2006 Piper through the night. With overnight temperatures dropping close to zero, Trapp said,

the student wrapped himself in an orange tarp to keep warm, and also was wearing a jacket and wool cap.

Rescuers on the ground had searched for the student through the night, but Trapp said the Federal Aviation Administration initially gave them coordinates that were about eight miles off.

The student used a cell phone to call his flight instructor about 9 a.m. to report he survived the crash with a dislocated shoulder and other minor injuries, said Mike Fergus, a spokesman for the FAA's Northwest Mountain Region in Seattle.

NIGHTTIME TOUCHDOWN

The space shuttle Endeavour lands Wednesday night March 26, 2008 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. The space shuttle and its crew of seven returned to Earth on Wednesday, making a rare nighttime touchdown to wrap up "a two-week adventure" at the international space station. The shuttle swooped through the darkness and landed on NASA's illuminated runway at 8:39 p.m., an hour after sunset. It was only the 22nd space shuttle landing in darkness. Less than one-fifth of all missions have ended at nighttime; the last one was in 2006.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Minn. school chlorine leak injures 38

COLD SPRING, Minn. (AP)—Nearly 40 students were injured Wednesday by a chlorine gas leak in the pool area of a high school where a shooting more than four years ago killed two boys, officials said. Thirty-six students and one adult were taken to hospitals from Rocori High School, Mayor Doug Schmitz said. At least one other person was injured. Six students and the adult will be kept overnight at St. Cloud Hospital for further treatment, authorities said. None of the patients was critically ill, said Thomas Schrup, the acting director of the hospital's emergency response team. The leak was discovered before 2 p.m., and the building was evacuated, said Stearns County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Bruce Bechtold. The leak was contained within an hour, he said.

Pilot was trying to stow gun that fired

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A US Airways pilot whose gun fired inside a cockpit said he was trying to stow the weapon as the crew got ready to land, according to a police report obtained Wednesday. The pilot didn't tell air traffic control about the shooting or say the bullet had punctured the cockpit until after the plane landed safely at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, the report said. Photos obtained by The Associated Press show a small exit hole on the plane's exterior below the cockpit window. US Airways Tower Supervisor Nathan Gundlach told police that when he arrived the pilot was on the phone with the Transportation Security Administration. Gundlach contacted US Airways about the in-flight shooting, but police were not notified until an hour later.

Probe begins in fatal Miami crane crash

MIAMI (AP)—Authorities are investigating what caused a section of construction crane to plummet 30 floors into a home that a contractor used for storage, killing two people in the nation's second deadly crane accident in 10 days. The accident occurred at a downtown Miami high-rise condominium Tuesday when workers tried to

raise the crane section to extend the equipment's reach, said Miami fire spokesman Ignatius Carroll. It fell 30 floors and smashed through the Spanish-tiled roof of a two-story house that was the home of Cameron Diaz's character in the movie "There's Something About Mary." Five workers were hurt, one critically. Terrance Hennessy, 59, a safety inspector for an insurance company, died at the scene, according to Miami police. Jeremy Thornsby, 21, of Tamarac, died at a hospital, police said.

More settlements in R.I. nightclub fire

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A speaker maker and two bus companies have agreed to tentative settlements stemming from a fire at a Rhode Island nightclub that killed 100 people. Court papers filed Wednesday show the companies agreed to pay a combined \$1.3 million to fire survivors and families of victims of the 2003 fire at The Station in West Warwick. Tentative settlements in the case now total more than \$70 million. A pyrotechnics display for the band Great White started the fire. The band used speakers from JBL Inc. that a lawsuit alleged had flammable foam inside. JBL says it will pay \$815,000.

WTC cleanup workers' cases can proceed

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawsuits can proceed on behalf of thousands of workers who say they were not properly protected as they cleaned up the World Trade Center site after the 2001 terrorist attacks, a federal appeals court said Wednesday. Lawyers for New York City and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had argued that they are immune from nearly 8,000 workers' claims, but the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it is too early to decide whether the defendants are protected from these sorts of lawsuits. The ruling means the city and the Port Authority must continue to defend the claims of respiratory and other personal injuries from emergency workers and contractors who rushed to clean up the site. Lawyers have said the lawsuits would not be ready for trial for several years.

Bush confronts China on Tibet crackdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush sharply confronted China's President Hu Jintao on Wednesday about Beijing's harsh crackdown in Tibet, joining an international chorus of alarm just months before the U.S. and the rest of the world parade to China for the Olympics.

In a telephone call with Hu, Bush "pushed very hard" about violence in Tibet, a necessity for restraint and a need for China to consult with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, the White House said.

After days of silence by Bush as other world leaders raised their voices, it marked a rare, direct protest from one president to another. As if to underscore how pointed Bush was, the White House said he used the call to "speak very clearly and frankly."

At the same time, Bush was forced to address an embarrassing blunder by the United States—the shipment of nuclear missile fuses to Taiwan and the failure to discover the error for more than 18 months. "It came up very briefly," National Se-

curity Adviser Stephen Hadley told reporters. "Basically, the president indicated that a mistake had been made. There was very little discussion about it."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had previously registered concern about China's actions in Tibet, but Bush's call raised the protest to the highest level of the U.S. government. On the world stage, French President Nicolas Sarkozy notably has suggested a boycott of the Olympics opening ceremony in Beijing in August.

US: Saddam paid for lawmakers' Iraq trip

WASHINGTON (AP)—Saddam Hussein's intelligence agency secretly financed a trip to Iraq for three U.S. lawmakers during the run-up to the U.S.-led invasion, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

An indictment unsealed in Detroit accuses Muthanna Al-Hanooti, a member of a Michigan nonprofit group, of arranging for three members of Congress to travel to Iraq in October 2002 at the behest of Saddam's regime.

Prosecutors say Iraqi intelligence officials paid for the trip through an intermediary.

At the time, the Bush administration was trying to persuade Congress to authorize military action against Iraq.

The lawmakers are not named in the indictment but the dates correspond to a trip by Democratic Reps. Jim McDermott of Washington, David Bonior of Michigan and Mike Thompson of California. There was no in-

dication the three lawmakers knew the trip was underwritten by Saddam.

"Obviously we didn't know it at the time," McDermott spokesman Michael DeCesare said Wednesday. "The trip was to see the plight of the Iraqi children. That's the only reason we went."

During the trip, the lawmakers expressed skepticism about the Bush administration's claims that Saddam was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

Asia

Tibet monks disrupt tour by journalists

LHASA, China (AP)—A group of monks disrupted a government-managed tour by foreign reporters to Tibet's capital on Thursday, screaming there was no religious freedom and that the Dalai Lama was not to blame for recent violence there.

The outburst by about 30 monks came as the journalists, including an Associated Press reporter, were being shown around the sacred Jokhang Temple by government handlers in Lhasa.

"Tibet is not free! Tibet is not free!" yelled one young Buddhist monk, who then started crying.

They also said their exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, had nothing to do with recent anti-government riots by Tibetans in Lhasa, where buildings were torched and looted, and ethnic Han Chinese were attacked.

The government has said the March 14 riots were masterminded by "the Dalai clique," Beijing's term for the Dalai Lama and his supporters.

Government handlers shouted for the journalists to leave and tried to pull them away during the protest.

The government had arranged the trip for the report-

ers to show how calm was Lhasa was after the deadly riots shattered China's plans for a peaceful run-up to the Beijing Summer Olympics.

"They want us to crush the Dalai Lama and that is not right," one monk said during the 15-minute outburst.

"This had nothing to do with the Dalai Lama," said another. The Chinese government says 22 people died, while Tibetan exiles say the violence plus the harsh crackdown afterward have left nearly 140 people dead.

The outburst by the monks came amid a morning of stage-managed events. Reporters had

already been taken to a Tibet medical clinic that had been attacked nearby the Jokhang, and shown a the clothing stores where five girls had been trapped and burned to death.

The monks, who first spoke Tibetan and then switched to Mandarin so the reporters could understand them, said they knew

they would probably be arrested for their actions but were willing to accept that.

On Wednesday, the first day of the visit, police presence was visible but not overbearing in the newly built up and heavily Chinese portions of Lhasa, teams of security forces stood in the lanes near the Jokhang.

Two Tibetan teachers drinking in a nearby bar said they were enjoying a first night out after nighttime curfews kept them at home eating mainly tsampa—roasted barley—since the day after the March 14 riot. One reason the curfew was loosened, they said, was the foreign media visit.

Cell phone shutdown angers Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban attacks on telecom towers have prompted cell phone companies to shut down service across southern Afghanistan at night, angering a quarter million customers who have no other telephones.

Even some Taliban fighters now regret the disruptions and are demanding that service be restored by the companies.

The communication blackout follows a campaign by the Taliban, which said the U.S.

and NATO were using the fighters' cell phone signals to track them at night and launch pinpoint attacks.

About 10 towers have been attacked since the warning late last month—seven of them seriously—causing almost \$2 million in damage, the telecom ministry said. Afghanistan's four major mobile phone companies began cutting nighttime service across the south soon after.

The speed with which the companies acted shows how

little influence the government has in remote areas and how just a few attacks can cripple a basic service and a booming, profitable industry. The shutdown could also stifle international investment in the country during a time of rising violence.

But the cutoff is proving extremely unpopular among Afghan citizens. Even some Taliban fighters are asking that the towers be switched back on, said Afghanistan's telecommunications minister, A. Sangin.

Toddler rescued from well in India

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—A 2-year-old girl who fell into a 45-foot well was rescued late Wednesday after 27 hours, officials said.

Rescuers spent much of Wednesday trying to pull the girl, identified only as Vandana, from the narrow well in a village near Agra, the site of the famed Taj Mahal, said Mukesh Meshram, the top official in the district south of New Delhi.

At one point, they even played music into the hole to soothe the child, who fell into

the well on Tuesday night.

Rescuers used heavy earth-moving equipment to help get the child out.

In video footage broadcast on Indian television, hundreds of people who gathered near the scene could be seen surging forward as a man flanked by soldiers carried Vandana from the hole to a waiting ambulance.

"The girl looked dazed and started crying," Meshram said. "She was immediately handed over to para-

medics and doctors."

While Meshram could not provide details of the baby's condition, the CNN-IBN television station reported that she was in a good shape but was being held overnight for observation at a nearby hospital.

The footage recalled the ordeal of Jessica McClure, the 18-month-old girl who fell into a backyard well 20 years ago in Midland, Texas. Her rescue from the 22-foot hole took 2 1/2 days and captivated television viewers around the world.

ASIAN BRIEFS

22 dead in China fireworks blast

BEIJING (AP)—A state news agency says a fireworks explosion killed 22 people and injured ten others in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang. The Xinhua News Agency said the accident took place Wednesday evening as authorities in the city of Turpan were destroying fireworks. The brief report said the fire was extinguished.

Pakistan frees Bhutto rally bomb suspect

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A man with suspected links to a suicide bombing that killed 150 people at a rally last year for Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was ordered freed from custody Wednesday for lack of evidence, an investigator said. Bhutto survived the October bombing in Karachi but died in another suicide bomb and gun attack near the capital two months later. Qari Saifullah Akhtar was arrested in Lahore last month, and was transferred to police in Karachi for questioning in connection with the October attack. Ranjha said police were still collecting evidence and could arrest Akhtar again in the future.

Group blames Thai army in cleric's death

NARATHIWAT, Thailand (AP)—An international rights watchdog said Wednesday that the death and apparent torture of a Muslim cleric in Thai military custody illustrates the army's mistreatment of Muslims in Thailand's restive south. Human Rights Watch said Yapa Koseng, a 56-year-old Muslim prayer leader, was arrested March 19 for suspected involvement in bombings blamed on insurgents in the southern province of Narathiwat, and two days later relatives who went to visit him were told he had died. Yapa's body was "covered with bruises and burn marks, and his ribs were fractured," the New York-based rights group said in a

statement, citing accounts from family members. Army spokesman Col. Thanathip Sawangsaeng said Wednesday that an investigation into Yapa's death was under way, but initial examinations indicated he "died from epilepsy."

Kazakh leader's ex son-in-law sentenced

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (AP)—A Kazakh military court Wednesday sentenced the former son-in-law of President Nursultan Nazarbayev in absentia to 20 years in jail on charges that included planning a coup, prosecutors said. The sentence comes as another blow for the former deputy foreign minister Rakhat Aliyev, who was given a 20-year sentence in January, also in absentia, on charges of kidnapping and embezzlement. Aliyev, who is in Austria, has maintained he's innocent and says the accusations are part of a state-organized plot. Nazarbayev, who has been in power for 17 years, is credited with bringing relative prosperity to his oil-rich nation, but critics say he has become increasingly authoritarian.

Taliban again threaten spring offensive

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A car bomb exploded Wednesday in a farmers' market in southern Afghanistan, killing eight civilians, as the Taliban warned it will use new techniques and draw on years of fighting experience to increase attacks this spring. Mohammad Hussein Andiwai, the police chief of Helmand province, said the bombing in Gereshk district also wounded 17 people, including five children. Andiwai said there were no security forces in the area and accused the Taliban of targeting civilians to "create fear in the people." The Taliban frequently target Afghan and international security forces, but this year have increased their attacks against civilians as well.

Bangladesh celebrates Independence Day

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh celebrated 37 years of independence Wednesday with ceremonies and military parades, as protesters urged the government to prosecute those who collaborated with Pakistan during the war of independence.

Just after midnight, war veterans, victims' families and supporters across Bangladesh switched off their lights for a minute of remembrance for the millions of Bangladeshis killed in the 1971 war and to demand the punishment of war criminals and collaborators.

Thousands also gathered at the Shahid Minar, a memorial for soldiers in downtown Dhaka, lighting candles and shouting for war criminals to be prosecuted.

On March 26, 1971, Bangladesh, then the eastern flank of Pakistan, declared its independence from Islamabad following

years of political and economic discrimination by West Pakistan. Official figures say about 3 million people were killed and millions more displaced during an ensuing nine-month war.

East Pakistan officially became the nation of Bangladesh on Dec. 16, 1971.

While the majority of East Pakistanis supported the 1971 war, a few sided with Pakistan,



Bangladeshi children wave their national flag during the Independence Day rally at the national memorial of freedom fighters at Saver, outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

assisting in the killing, torture and rape of their compatriots. Most collaborators were not punished because of a general amnesty in 1973. Others avoided prosecution when a law against collaborators was repealed in 1975.

Subsequent governments have not addressed the issue, despite repeated calls for justice.

The Sector Commanders' Fo-

rum, made up of guerrilla leaders from the 1971 war, organized the blackout early Wednesday.

The forum said it hoped the demonstration would highlight its demands for the establishment of a special war crimes tribunal, and the barring of known war criminals and collaborators from political office, according to The Independent newspaper.

World

Militiamen holding out in Basra fighting

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister warned gunmen in the oil port of Basra to surrender their weapons by Friday or face harsher measures, as clashes between security forces and Shiite militia fighters spread throughout the south and in Baghdad.

Despite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ultimatum Wednesday, government troops in Basra were having trouble making inroads into neighborhoods that the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army has controlled for years. Residents spoke of militiamen using mortar shells, sniper fire, roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades to fight off security forces.

A Pentagon official said reports from the Basra area indicate that militiamen had overrun a number of police stations and that it was unclear how well the Iraqi security forces were performing overall. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, remained in Basra to supervise a crackdown against the spiraling violence between militia factions vying for control of the center

of Iraq's vast oil industry, located near the Iranian border. The events threatened to unravel a Mahdi Army cease-fire and spark a dramatic escalation in violence after a monthslong period of relative calm.

Street battles that broke out Tuesday in Basra and Baghdad's main Shiite district of Sadr City spread to several other neighborhoods and southern cities, leaving nearly 140 dead, including civilians, Iraqi security forces and militants. That two-day figure was a rough estimate provided by police and hospital officials who could not give a more specific breakdown.

In Baghdad, 16 rockets slammed into the U.S.-protected Green Zone, the U.S. military said, as the heavily fortified area was hammered for the third time this week. One soldier with the U.S.-led coalition, two American civilians and an Iraqi soldier were wounded in the attacks, it said.

At least 11 Iraqis were killed elsewhere in the capital by rounds that apparently fell short, police said.

Two American soldiers were also killed Wednesday in separate attacks in Baghdad, the



In this image taken from video, armed men are seen Wednesday, March 26, 2008, in Basra, Iraq.

military said, raising the overall U.S. death toll since the war started more than five years ago to at least 4,003, according to an Associated Press count.

The Sadrist are angry over recent raids and detentions, saying U.S. and Iraqi forces have

taken advantage of the August cease-fire to crack down on the movement.

They have accused rival Shiite parties, which control Iraqi security forces, of engineering the arrests to prevent them from mounting an effective campaign

after the Iraqi parliament agreed in February to hold provincial elections by the fall.

Anthony Cordesman, an analyst at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, cautioned against dismissing those concerns.

Sarkozy plays statesman on rare UK visit

LONDON (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his supermodel wife swept into Britain on Wednesday, mixing elaborate pomp with his impassioned warning that the West must beat the Taliban in Afghanistan no matter the cost.

Sarkozy played the statesman as he began his state visit—the first by a French president to Britain in 12 years. Gone were his trademark shades and ubiquitous cell phone as he greeted Queen Elizabeth II and inspected rows of cavalrymen.

After a round of ceremonial duties, Sarkozy gave a fiery speech to a joint sitting of the House of Commons and House of Lords. He followed a powerful tribute to Britain's role in countering the threat of fascism in Europe with a promise to stand by London as it fights the Taliban.

"We cannot afford to lose Afghanistan," Sarkozy said, speaking in French. "Whatever the cost, whatever the expense, we cannot afford it."

Without specifying numbers, he pledged more French troops for NATO's mission



Sarkozy

in Afghanistan if Afghans also get more responsibility and there is better coordination of nonmilitary efforts.

The pledge underscores his determination to revitalize relations with Britain and the United States and put aside differences over the Iraq war.

Canada has warned that it will pull its 2,500 soldiers out of Afghanistan if other allies do not offer more help. It wants 1,000 more soldiers for anti-Taliban efforts.

Sarkozy won a standing ovation for his 45-minute speech, in which he called for Britain and France to cooperate more closely in Europe and to work together to press the U.S. on climate change.

"Who better than its closest, sincerest friends to remind the U.S. of its responsibilities?" he said.

The pomp—and the opportunity to appear dignified—are important to Sarkozy amid a sagging approval rating at home and questions about his attitude.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown plans lengthy discussions Thursday with Sarkozy on Afghanistan, a possible joint nuclear energy project, climate change and the international response to unrest in Tibet.



In this undated image released by the Atapuerca Research Team (EIA) Wednesday, March 26, 2008, a small piece of jawbone unearthed in a cave in Spain is seen.

Human ancestor fossil found in Europe

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A small piece of jawbone unearthed in a cave in Spain is the oldest known fossil of a human ancestor in Europe and suggests that people lived on the continent much earlier than previously believed, scientists say.

The researchers said the fossil found last year at Atapuerca in northern Spain, along with stone tools and animal bones, is up to 1.3 million years old. That would be 500,000 years older than remains from a 1997 find that prompted the naming of a new species: Homo antecessor, or Pioneer Man, possibly a common ancestor to Neanderthals and modern humans.

The new find appears to be from the same species,

researchers said.

A team co-led by Eudald Carbonell, director of the Catalan Institute of Human Paleo-Ecology and Social Evolution, reported their find in Thursday's issue of the scientific journal Nature.

The timing of the earliest occupation of Europe by humans that emerged from Africa has been controversial for many years.

Some archeologists believe the process was a stop-and-go one in which species of hominins—a group that includes the extinct relatives of modern humans—emerged and died out quickly only to be replaced by others, making for a very slow spread across the continent, Carbonell said in an interview.

Comoros troops take control of island

MORONI, Comoros (AP)—The Comoros government said Wednesday it has defeated rebels and seized Anjouan island off the southeast coast of Africa.

Soldiers were searching for a renegade colonel who had sought independence for the island and ruled there since 2001.

The government claim that it had retaken Anjouan, which could not immediately be verified, came a day after hundreds of its troops backed by African Union forces seized the island's capital, Mutsamudu.

"As you can imagine we are in a kind of jubilant mood, especially the way it (takeover) has gone because it has been very swift. In a matter of 18 hours the situation was under control," said Abdourahim Said Bacar, a government spokesman.

man in Moroni, on Grand Comore island where the national government is based.

He said there were no major casualties.

Bacar said there were exchanges of gunfire Wednesday, "but I think by this time (Wednesday evening) all that has been solved and we think that for the time being we can say that the whole island has been secured."

Troops have yet to find the renegade rebel leader, Col. Mohamed Bacar. The colonel, who is not related to the government spokesman, gained control of Anjouan during a 2001 military coup and was elected president in disputed polls in 2002 and last May.

Defense Chief of Staff Mohamed Dosara acknowledged "there have been some deaths

among Mohamed Bacar's fighters," in fighting Tuesday and Wednesday.

The government spokesman said a transitional government for Anjouan will be formed in a few days and its mandate will be to hold new presidential elections.

On Anjouan on Wednesday, there was evidence of looting of some government buildings in the capital. At the Interior Ministry, an Associated Press photographer saw scattered papers and files, and all the furniture was gone. At the main police station one child wore a police cap and another played with a riot shield.

Soldiers freed all the prisoners from the main jail in Mutsamudu on Wednesday to the cheers of residents.

Iran wants compensation for UN sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran is demanding compensation for what it says are unlawful sanctions imposed by the U.N. for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment, the Mideast nation's foreign minister said in a letter obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

In the 20-page letter, Manouchehr Mottaki said Iran rejects the sanctions resolutions because the U.N. Security Council went beyond its powers, and its actions are inconsistent with the U.N. Charter.

The United States, the European Union, Israel and others

suspect Iran's goal is to produce nuclear weapons. But Iran insists its program is aimed solely at producing nuclear energy and has defied the council by stepping up its enrichment activities.

Mottaki said repeatedly in the letter that Tehran has answered all outstanding questions from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the IAEA "has repeatedly stated that there is no evidence to prove any diversion of the Iranian nuclear program towards military purposes."

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in a Feb. 22 report that

his team made good progress in clarifying Iran's past nuclear activities but Tehran had not responded properly to intelligence forwarded by the U.S. and its allies purportedly showing nuclear weapons technology.

Foreign ministers of the six countries that have been in the forefront of efforts to ensure that Iran's nuclear intentions are peaceful—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany—issued a joint statement to coincide with the council's adoption of a third sanctions resolution on March 3 reaffirming their approach.

Off The Wall

Kan. woman recovering from 2-year toilet ordeal

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A woman who may have spent nearly two years in a bathroom, sitting on the toilet so long that the seat adhered to sores on her body, remains hospitalized and in pain from medical procedures, family members said Wednesday.

Pam Babcock, 35, was found stuck to the toilet in late February after her boyfriend, Kory McFarren, 37, called authorities to say something was wrong with her. Police believe she sat on the toilet for about a month.

McFarren was charged last week with a misdemeanor count of mistreatment of a dependent adult.

Pat Bollinger, the woman's aunt, said she calls daily to the hospital to ask how Babcock is doing and asks every day to talk to her. Babcock has agreed to talk to her only once for about 10 minutes, she said.

During that one call, Babcock spoke little and mostly listened as Bollinger recounted happy family memories—time spent swimming, camping and boating—from the year Babcock lived with them in Arizona when she was in fifth grade.

Babcock has not spoken about her bathroom ordeal, said Bollinger, the family spokeswoman.

"I didn't bring up anything," Bollinger said. "I just let her know how much I loved her and cared for her."

Babcock's relatives said that no family members have been allowed to see her at the hospital, that they know little of her medical condition and that she spends much of her time sleeping at the hospital's intensive care unit.

"Her wounds are still serious. ... She is not out of the woods by any means. She is a very sick girl," Bollinger said.



Black swan "Petra" welcomes her "partner", a swan-shaped pedal boat at a small lake at the Zoo in Muenster, western Germany, in this March 9, 2007 file photo.

Swan, paddleboat getting back together

BERLIN (AP)—Petra the swan has a new home and so does her beloved swan-shaped paddleboat. In 2006, Petra, a black swan, became so attached to the boat—shaped like an outsized white swan—that she refused to leave its side at a lake near a zoo in the German city of Muenster.

Petra and her paddleboat were taken to the zoo.

Zoo officials finally parted bird and boat last week after

Petra settled down with a real white swan and the boat was returned to the lake. But the romance was short-lived. The zoo says that, on Saturday, her new beau flew off and sought out the company of other black swans.

A zoo statement says that Petra "appears to feel lonely" and is swimming around in an agitated state. The solution? On Friday, she will be taken back to the nearby lake and her faithful paddleboat.

Rancher arrested for selling snake vodka

SANTO, Texas (AP)—A rattlesnake rancher who calls himself Bayou Bob found a new way to make money: Stick a rattler inside a bottle of vodka and market the concoction as an "ancient Asian elixir." But Bayou Bob Popplewell's bright idea appears to have landed him on the wrong side of the law, because he has no liquor license.

Popplewell, who has raised rattlesnakes and turtles at Bayou Bob's Brazos River Rattlesnake Ranch for more than two decades, surrendered to authorities Monday. He spent about 10 minutes in jail after the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission obtained arrest warrants on misdemeanor charges of selling alcohol without a license and possessing alcohol with intent to sell.

If convicted, he faces up to a year in jail and \$1,000 in fines.

Popplewell said he will fight the charges. His intent, he said, is not to sell an alcoholic beverage but a healing tonic. He said he has customers of



This image provided by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission via the Fort Worth Star-Telegram shows a bottle of vodka with a juvenile rattlesnake inside.

Asian descent who believe the concoction has medicinal properties.

"It's almost a spiritual thing," said Popplewell, 63.

But alcohol commission agent Scott Jones pointed out that investigators confiscated 429 bottles of snake vodka and one bottle of snake tequila. At \$23 a bottle, that's almost \$10,000 worth of reptilian booze.

Even if Popplewell intended his drink be used as a healing tonic—an assertion the alcohol commission disputes—his use of vodka requires a state permit, authorities said.

"It's sold for beverage purposes, and he knows what he's doing," commission Sgt. Charlie Cloud said.

Popplewell said he uses the cheapest vodka he can find as a preservative for the snakes. The end result is a super sweet mixed drink that Popplewell compared to cough syrup.

"I've honestly never seen a person drink it," he said.

Alleged safe thief asks for phone call

CHICAGO (AP)—An alleged thief wasn't fazed when workers at a Chicago muffler shop told him a safe he wanted to rob wasn't open. He just asked them to give him a call when their boss returned with the combination.

The 18-year-old got a call. But so did Chicago police.

When Ruben Carate returned to Velasquez & Sons Mufflers

For Less on Monday, plainclothes Chicago police officers shot and wounded him in the leg. Carate was charged Tuesday with attempted armed robbery and aggravated assault of a police officer, the Cook County state's attorney's office said.

"He gave us his phone number when we told him we didn't have any money. He told us to call him

back when the owner came back with the money and he was going to come back and rob him," said worker Tony Diaz.

"It's pretty funny now, but it wasn't at the time," Diaz said.

A masked man entered the shop with a gun and demanded money around 8 a.m., said mechanic Jose Sida.

Employees told him they

carried little cash and couldn't open the safe, so the man left two numbers to call when the owner came in, Sida said.

"No one could make this up," said police Lt. Scott Schwieger.

The man returned around noon, wearing the same mask and clothing. Officers told employees to get to the back of the shop, Sida said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Judge sentences man 10 days per word

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A man has talked himself into nearly two years in jail after threatening to kill a Shelby County criminal court judge. Joshua Beadle has been held in contempt and sentenced to 10 days per word after a judge ordered him to stop the threatening comments. Judge Lee Coffee stopped counting at 70 words and sentenced Beadle to 700 days in jail. Beadle was shackled and outfitted in a special hooded spit mask during the hearing Monday after spitting at the judge at a hearing in January. Beadle missed the judge and instead hit a clerk's computer. Through his nylon-and-mesh spit mask, he apologized to the clerk on Monday and assured her that his intended target was the judge. Beadle was appearing in court on burglary and rape charges.

Big tip lets Ind. teen buy prom dress

CINCINNATI (AP)—An 18-year-old in Indiana will have the prom night she was dreaming of, thanks to a mystery man's Easter tip. Kelsey Tolliver was selling newspapers inside Cincinnati's University Hospital last Sunday when she says a customer in his mid-20s wished her Happy Easter and said to keep the change. At first, she thought he'd given her \$4 for a Sunday paper costing \$1.50. But then she

realized the wad of bills was too thick—and she had \$500 in twenties, plus four \$1 bills. She says she'd never seen the man before and couldn't find him afterward. The student at Switzerland County Senior High in Patriot, Ind., says she gave half the money to her stepfather. The rest she's using for a dress, shoes, purse and limo for her senior prom.

Man nabbed for pot-smelling cash deposit

STURGEON BAY, Wis. (AP)—The musty smell of a man's money led to his arrest on possible drug charges. The 21-year-old Sturgeon Bay man tried to deposit money smelling of marijuana at a bank here last week, according to a Sturgeon Bay police report obtained by the Door County Advocate. The \$4,000 in bundled bills did not smell like burned marijuana but had a musty odor of ground sweet leaves, the report said. The smell was so strong and distinct that a teller put the cash in a plastic bag. Sturgeon Bay police tested it for marijuana, and it came back positive. Police later found bagged marijuana at the man's home.

Police: Pantless woman gets out of car

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP)—Suburban New York police say a drunken driver had a suspended license and had marijuana in her car. Oh, they also say she didn't have any

pants on. Yonkers police say 22-year-old Long Island resident Angelica Buchanan was found Saturday standing bottomless in a street near her car. They say she was so drunk she had to be hospitalized. Police say she claimed she wasn't wearing pants because she needed to use the bathroom. They've charged her with driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation of a vehicle and marijuana possession. Earlier this month a Westchester County man was accused of using a doughnut shop's drive-through lane while not wearing pants. He's charged with public lewdness.

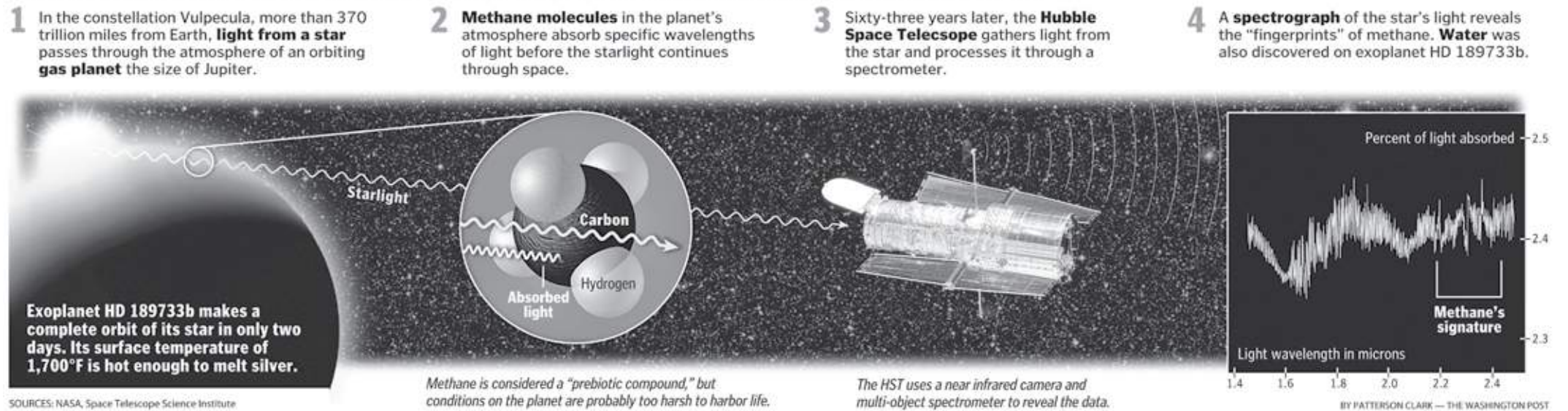
Race in heels trips man on workers comp

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Prosecutors say a video shows a Connecticut correction officer running a 40-yard-dash in women's clothing and high heels—at a time he had claimed he was too injured to work. Garrett A. Dalton of Naugatuck has been charged with workers compensation fraud. He's accused of taking part in a radio station's contest for Hannah Montana concert tickets last year. Not only did he have to dress in drag but he had to carry an egg on a spoon. Authorities were alerted after someone saw Dalton in a TV news report. Prosecutors say the 41-year-old collected more than \$5,000 in workers' compensation after he reported a work-related injury in June.

Science & Technology

Reading the Atmosphere of an Exoplanet

For the first time, astronomers have identified a planet outside our solar system with an atmosphere containing organic molecules.



The Extrasolar Planets Encyclopedia lists 277 confirmed "extrasolar" planets, and quite a few more on the list of those suspected but not yet confirmed. This explosion in planetary discoveries is taking place at such warp speed that even those most intimately involved are often amazed, especially because their ultimate goal is nothing less than finding life elsewhere in the universe.

An astounding time for planetary discoveries

By MARC KAUFMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—It used to be that planets were familiar places such as Mars and Saturn that orbited our sun and were well known to all schoolchildren.

Since astronomers identified the first planet outside our solar system 13 years ago, however, that idea has become downright quaint. Because now, according to the Extrasolar Planets Encyclopedia, there are 277 confirmed "extrasolar" planets, and quite a few more on the list of those suspected but not yet confirmed.

This explosion in planetary discoveries is taking place at such warp speed that even those most intimately involved are often amazed—especially because their ultimate goal is nothing less than finding life elsewhere in the universe.

"This is an absolutely astounding time for this field," said Mark Swain, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who last week reported finding the first "exoplanet" to have organic methane in its atmosphere.

"We're not only finding them rapidly and in great variety, but we're starting to characterize them—their mass and orbits, the properties of their

atmospheres, measurements of day and night, dynamics of their winds," he said after the methane discovery was released last week.

So far, most of the faraway planets are large, super-hot gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn, which are not expected to be able to support life. They are also so far away that humans are unlikely to ever directly observe them. The planet with methane is a very close one—it would take a spaceship traveling at the speed of light 63 years to get there—but most others are hundreds or thousands of light-years away.

But with astronomers regularly finding ingenious ways to locate and examine distant planets—sometimes with new technologies, sometimes because of inventive new ways of analyzing data—many in the field say it is just a matter of time before they detect Earth-size, rocky planets elsewhere in the cosmos.

"We've already been able to detect planets with only five or 10 times the mass of the Earth," said Sara Seager, a prominent extrasolar planet researcher and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The large gas giants typically are hundreds of times as large as our planet. "If the technology improves a bit, with another push, we'll find Earths," she said.

This is not to say that scientists will necessarily find life on another distant planet—although that is certainly the hope and, to some extent, the expectation. But with the now-proven ability to detect molecules of methane, a chemical often associated with life, researchers are becoming more confident that they will be able to detect signs of biological activity in faraway solar systems if it exists.

"Finding methane in the atmosphere of a particular exoplanet is very important, but demonstrating that we have the tools to identify molecules in these atmospheres is of even greater significance," said Seager, who was not involved in the study.

Carl Pilcher, director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute at the Ames Research Center in California, agrees that the big challenge now is to detect smaller, Earth-size planets, then to find more and better ways to learn about their atmospheres and other characteristics.

He said that just as the exoplanet search has become supercharged of late, so, too, has the search for life on other planets and in other solar systems, which is the primary focus of the institute.

"There are a hundred billion stars in our galaxy and probably 100 billion other galaxies with as many stars as ours, so

it seems highly unlikely that there are not Earth-like planets orbiting some of them out there, waiting to be discovered," he said. "With that in mind, we're working hard on techniques to answer the question of whether there's life on them to be found." Some of the work of finding and analyzing exoplanets is being done with ground-based telescopes, and some from orbiting observatories such as the Hubble Space Telescope, which provided the data used to discover exoplanet methane. In addition, astronomers and astrophysicists are developing ever more powerful ways to interpret data and to use spectroscopy, which splits light into its components to reveal the "fingerprints" of various chemicals.

Considerably more powerful hardware is also on the way. NASA's Kepler satellite, which is specifically designed to find distant planets as they transit in front of their stars, is supposed to be launched next spring and is expected to locate hundreds or thousands of new planets. The James Webb Space Telescope, a high-powered Hubble successor that is designed to detect atmospheric molecules in planets billions of light-years away, is scheduled for launch in 2013.

The recent discovery of methane in the atmosphere of exoplanet HD

189733b was the kind of breakthrough the astrobiology institute, and many others, are looking for—even though the methane almost certainly has chemical origins, as on Jupiter and Saturn, rather than biological ones. (The planet is punishingly close to its sun—making a full orbit in twodays—and has an atmospheric temperature of 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit.) Nonetheless, methane can be a byproduct of biological processes, and so learning how to detect it is essential.

The observations were made as the planet passed in front of its parent star in what astronomers call a transit. As the light from the star briefly pierced the atmosphere along the planet's edge, atmospheric gases imprinted their identifiable signatures on the starlight.

The astronomers expected to find signs of carbon monoxide on the spectrogram rather than methane, and they were surprised by what they found.

"This indicates we don't really understand exoplanet atmospheres yet," Swain said.

But considering that 15 years ago not a single planet had been discovered outside our solar system, Swain said, it is remarkable that scientists are now probing the makeup and dynamics of planets so far away.

Use of Google for data triggers fears

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—It's called "Google hacking"—a slick data-mining technique used by the Internet's cops and crooks alike to unearth sensitive material mistakenly posted to public Web sites.

And it's just gotten easier, thanks to a program that automates what has typically been painstaking manual labor. The program's authors say they hope it will "screw a large Internet search engine and make the Web a safer place."

Google hacking doesn't mean anyone's hacking Google's Web site. Rather, it refers to a sophisticated searching technique used to uncover flaws in the way Web sites handle confidential details, such as public files containing password and credit card numbers and clues about the vulnerability of the site's own servers.

It works by examining the hidden recesses of a Web site, areas that have

been indexed by Google but don't pop up in traditional searches. Sometimes Web sites accidentally post revealing information about themselves, either because employees mistakenly put confidential documents online, or the site wasn't properly configured to obscure sensitive areas.

Security experts say Google hacking wouldn't be an issue if Web sites had proper security safeguards in place.

By looking through Google for evidence of specific types of files used by a Web site or telling responses from the Web site's servers, hackers can learn a lot about how the site was built—and thus how to begin crafting their attacks.

Although Google hacking has been used for several years by good guys and bad guys to monitor security, experts caution that the new program, called Goolag, could tip the balance in favor of criminals.

"It just makes their job that much easier—in a very short period of time they can do all these searches for sensitive information," said Ryan Barnett, director of application security at Breach Security Inc. and a SANS Institute faculty member.

Google hackers have typically had to enter in detailed Google search strings by hand, using specially crafted queries to unearth links buried deep in the list of a site's contents. Google has been able to clamp down on past attempts to automate the process.

Experts say the new program, on the other hand, appears to work differently, tricking Google into believing a real person is typing the queries—in other words, someone Google would be unlikely to block.

Google declined to comment on Goolag, released by the hacker group Cult of the Dead Cow.

Vietnam memorial wall now online

NEW YORK (AP)—Family and friends of servicemen and women who died or vanished in the Vietnam War no longer have to travel to Washington to pay their respects at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

An interactive version debuts online this week, a project of historical document archive site Footnote.com in conjunction with the National Archives and Records Administration.

The virtual version of the famous memorial—which is a pair of 246-foot black granite walls inscribed with the names of more than 58,000 American military casualties—is searchable.

Every name etched onto the real-world wall is viewable online and linked to the veteran's service record. Online visitors can add photos and describe their memories of the servicemen and women who died in the war.

Footnote.com Chief Executive Russ Wilding hopes the site will develop into an online community for veterans, family and friends to pay tribute and share their thoughts.

"The memorial is a historical document that obviously is very emotional," he says. "We want the site to help people come together to remember the veterans who were lost."

More than 2,000 photos were taken of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall to create the online version, Wilding said. He said the resulting image is the equivalent of 460 feet wide and the largest of its kind on the Web.

Wednesday was the 26th anniversary of the groundbreaking for construction of the wall, which was completed in November 1982 and officially became a National Monument two years later.

No bait! Fish may respond to sound

BOSTON (AP)—Call them Pavlov's fish: Scientists are testing a plan to train fish to catch themselves by swimming into a net when they hear a tone that signals feeding time.

If it works, the system could eventually allow black sea bass to be released into the open ocean, where they would grow to market size, then swim into an underwater cage to be harvested when they hear the signal.

What's next, teaching them to coat themselves in batter and hop inside a fryer?

"It sounds crazy, but it's real," said Simon Miner, a research assistant at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, which received a \$270,000 grant for the project from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Miner said the specially trained fish could someday be used to bolster the depleted black sea bass stock. Farmed fish might become better acclimated to the wild if they can be called back for food every few days.

The bigger goal is to defray the costs of fish farming, an increasingly important source of the world's seafood. If fish can be trained to return to the farmer after feeding in the open ocean for several days, farms could save money on feed and reduce the amount of fish waste

released in concentrated areas.

The key question for fish farmers: How many fish will actually return, and how many will be lost to predators or simply swim away?

Randy MacMillan, president of the National Aquaculture Association, said fish farmers won't be easily convinced to adopt open-ocean ranching.

"The commercial side is going to be skeptical," said MacMillan, who works on a trout farm in Idaho.

The Massachusetts project is one of several experiments funded by the federal government last year as part of aquaculture research.

"We're looking for innovations that will actually make a difference for coastal communities and the environment," said Michael Rubino, manager of NOAA Aquaculture. "It fits in both."

Previous experiments have used sound to train a fish to feed—similar to what Russian scientist Ivan Pavlov did in his famous dogs that salivated at the sound of a bell, expecting food.

In Japan, scientists have used sound to keep newly released farmed fish in certain areas, where they could be caught in traditional ways.

But no one has ever tried to get fish to leave and return to an enclosure where they can be scooped up.



A six-month-old sea bass swims to the water surface in a tank at the Marine Biological Laboratory, in Wood's Hole, Mass., Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

The project began last summer using 6,500 black sea bass, a stout, bottom-dwelling fish that lives between Florida and Cape Cod and in the winter is generally not found north of New Jersey. The species grows up to 3 pounds and 20 inches long and has a thick, white flesh that can be filleted for broiling or cut into nuggets for frying.

Miner said the first objective was to see if the fish could truly be trained. He got his answer after keeping the fish in a circular tank, then sounding a tone before he dropped food in an enclosed "feeding zone" within the tank that the fish could enter only through a small opening.

Researchers played the tone for 20 seconds, three times a

day, for about two weeks. Afterward, whenever the tone sounded, "you have remote-control fish," Miner said.

"You hit that button, and they go into that area, and they wait patiently," he said.

Miner is now trying to figure out how long the fish remember to associate the tone with food. He feeds the fish

outside the feeding zone without a tone for a few days and then tests if they will still head for the feeding area when the tone sounds again.

Some fish forgot after five days. Others remembered as long as 10. Miner said the strength of memory seems tied to how long the fish are trained.

By May, researchers hope to bring about 5,000 black sea bass to a feeding station called an "AquaDome," a structure about 33 feet across and 16 feet high that will be anchored to the ocean floor in Buzzards Bay, 45 miles southeast of Boston.

The sea bass will be fed in the dome after a tone sounds. After researchers feel they've been sufficiently trained, they will be freed from the dome. A day or two later, scientists will sound the tone again and see how many bass return. They'll do the experiment again around summer's end.

The tone will have a range of about 100 meters in every direction. Miner said sea bass are a territorial fish that prefer a rocky bottom, like in Buzzards Bay, where they can forage for food. He doesn't think they will stray too far from the dome.

MacMillan is not convinced the fish won't just swim away.

"My experience with fish is they will wander far and wide," he said.

File sharers get help spotting ISP moves

NEW YORK (AP)—Vuze Inc., a California-based company that provides a popular file-sharing program, is giving its users a tool to help figure out if their Internet service provider is interfering with their traffic.

The Associated Press last year confirmed user reports that Comcast Corp., the country's largest cable company, was secretly disrupting some file-sharing by its subscribers. The company has acknowledged to the practice and said it's necessary to curb traffic that would otherwise slow

down Internet speeds for other subscribers.

The "plug-in" Vuze made available as a free download last weekend looks for "reset packets," the tool Comcast uses to break off some connections with computers trying to download files from Comcast subscribers, Vuze said Wednesday.

The plug-in works with Vuze's main application, Azureus, which is based on the BitTorrent file-sharing technology. If the user allows it, the plug-in will send data back to Vuze, which will collect information

about ISPs that are interfering with their subscribers' traffic.

Palo Alto-based Vuze said Azureus has been downloaded 20 million times, and an average of 1.3 million users are using at any one time.

Many U.S. ISPs—and cable companies in particular—acknowledge they are managing traffic. But most apparently apply more subtle methods that would not be identified by the Vuze plug-in.

The Federal Communications Commission is investigating Comcast's methods.

Also, the nonprofit People for Internet Responsibility has formed a Network Neutrality Squad to develop software tools that it will distribute for free to people who want to test what their ISP is doing.

BitTorrent technology is used by several other programs. BitTorrent and eDonkey are the most commonly used file-sharing networks, and make up about a third of all Internet traffic, according to an analysis by traffic-management and security company Arbor Networks last year.

Comcast, Sprint, Google may fund WiMax

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Major cable, telecom and Internet companies are in preliminary, but serious, talks to create a national wireless network that would link devices such as computers, televisions and cell phones, according to a person familiar with the talks.

Comcast Corp., Time Warner Cable Inc., Bright House Networks, Google Inc., Intel Corp., Sprint Nextel Corp. and Clearwire Corp. are considering investing a total of \$3 billion to \$4 billion in the joint venture, said the person, who asked not to be named because the person was not authorized to discuss the talks.

Sprint and Clearwire, a start-up founded by cellular pioneer Craig McCaw, have already

announced their plans to build out a network using WiMax technology, but had been looking for outside funding.

WiMax promises faster wireless connection speeds for laptops and phones than the latest networks run by cell-phone operators, and it is even seen as a potential competitor to fixed-line broadband like DSL.

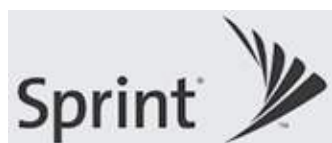
Comcast, Google and Intel are each considering putting in about \$1 billion into a new company that would operate the

network, the person said. Time Warner Cable's portion is \$500 million while privately held

Bright House could contribute \$100 million to \$200 million, the person said.

Intel has been heavily involved in developing the WiMax technology and will be making WiMax chips for computers, set-top boxes and cell phones.

The joint venture would be a way for cable companies to participate in a wireless strategy without owning a mobile phone



Software turns smart phone into hotspot

NEW YORK (AP)—Here's a cool use for a phone that has both cellular broadband and Wi-Fi: Turn it into a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot so your friends can surf the Internet on their laptops.

A couple startups have created and made available software like this in the last year. But a more established software maker said Wednesday that it has created a package for carriers to offer their customers.

TapRoot Systems Inc. of Research Triangle Park, N.C., said it was talking with carriers about providing their customers with the software, which would let up to five Wi-Fi users connect to a phone.

A possible free trial version would let only one Wi-Fi user connect to the phone at a time.

The software works on phones with Windows Mobile or Symbian S60 software. Windows phones are common in the U.S., while Symbian is championed by Nokia Corp. and more common in Europe. There already is an independent program called WMWifirouter that turns Windows phones into hotspots, and there's one called JoikuSpot for Nokia phones.

Capacity is limited on third-generation cellular broadband networks, and carriers are somewhat restrictive of the applications they allow, for fear their networks will be overwhelmed.

TapRoot's system attempts to assuage that fear by letting carriers control access through a server, said Chief Executive Bob Bicksler. The carriers could then charge extra for the service, he said.

Not many phones have both 3G and Wi-Fi. U.S. carriers have in some cases removed or disabled Wi-Fi antennas for the U.S. launches of some phones by overseas manufacturers, apparently because they fear customers would be less likely to pay for 3G. However, combined Wi-Fi and 3G phones are becoming more common.

Bicksler mentioned AT&T Inc.'s Tilt and 8525 models and Sprint Nextel Corp.'s Mogul by HTC as phones that would work as mobile hotspots.

Another way of using a 3G network to create a Wi-Fi hotspot is to buy a Wi-Fi router that accepts a cellular broadband card. Cisco Systems Inc. makes such a router for the Sprint network.

Island Snapshots



SAG TRAINING

Visiting State Advisory Group trainers Tom Begich, Carmen Santiago-Roberts and Larry Fiedler gather for a photo during the Criminal Justice Planning Agency's two-day State Advisory Group training at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



EGG HUNT

The Tinian Mayors Office through the Tinian Outreach Program held the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kammer Beach, Tinian on Sunday. Children with ages 1 to 8 joined together to find the Bronze, Silver and Golden Egg for cash prizes ranging from \$10 to \$50. Age groups were broken down from 0-3, 4-5 & 6-8 years old respectively. The children were then treated to cookies and ice keke, courtesy of Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



AWAODORI

Children of Koblerville Youth Learning Center pose with instructors Mayumi Suzuki, Shunsuke Katagiri and PDM Promoters, Inc. volunteers after performing a traditional Japanese dance at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SCRAMBLING FOR EGGS

Children run to find hundreds of eggs during Easter Sunday celebration at Palms Resort Saipan. Due to a large number of participants, kids were divided into two groups. Before the egg hunting, the children had fun in the drawing and coloring contest. Aside from prizes, the children were treated to free swimming pool passes. Families were also given free photos during the successful event.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



SUGAR KING PROJECT

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela gather for a photo with Urban Development's Rebecca Borja, Marianas Island Housing Authority director Joshua Sasamoto, NMHC's Jeannie Mafnas and Clemente Sablan on the construction site of the new estate food courtyard at the Sugar King Estate.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday greetings go out to Saipan Swim Club coach Mike Stewart. Greetings coming from your SSC family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COVENANT DAY

Community members line up to get some food during the Covenant Party gathering in celebration of the Commonwealth's Covenant Day at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe on Monday. The event marked the 32nd year since the Covenant to establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas was signed into United States public law by President Gerald Ford.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



EASTER EGG HUNT

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dozens of children rush to gather eggs around the poolside of Pacific Islands Club during the Easter egg hunting activity Sunday afternoon. The festive activity was done in observance of the Easter Sunday, during which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also marks the end of the Lenten Season for the Catholic faith.



EASTER EYESORE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A pile of trash from the Easter Sunday celebration is seen scattered near the shore behind the Bicol Pavilion in Susupe yesterday.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Public Safety commissioner Clyde K. Norita delivers his presentation on community policing during the Municipal Neighborhood Watch Task Force islandwide meeting for all Saipan residents to address the rising criminality in villages at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday. The meeting was co-hosted by the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.



GOOD FRIDAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Catholic devotees patiently wait in line to touch the statue of Christ at the peak of Mt. Tapochau in observance of the annual tradition of Good Friday.



STATE ADVISORY GROUP

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Visiting State Advisory Group trainers Tom Begich, Carmen Santiago-Roberts and Larry Fiedler pose for the *Saipan Tribune* after the Criminal Justice Planning Agency's two-day State Advisory Group training at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Wednesday.



SHRM MEETING

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Public Law 15-108 author and deputy secretary of Labor Cinta Kaipat talks to members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management about PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations during the group's general membership meeting at the Palms Resort Saipan Thursday. Also in photo are Labor director Barry Hirshbein and legal counsel to the administration Atty. Deanne Siemer.



STREET PERFORMANCES

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of Marianas High Music Club JR Cadua, Ralph Kileman, and Ron Catap entertain the audience with their acoustic performance during the trial run for PDM Promoters, Inc.'s "street performances" at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Friday afternoon.

Life & Style

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Metro as a geo-social grid category refers to a Metropolitan Area, and to call Japan a Metro is obviously stretching the meaning of the term. Yet one easily gets the impression that the whole of Japan is but a sprawling urban neighborhood. From Nagasaki in the south to Sapporo up north, Japan Inc. looks like a corporate headquarter with manicured lawns and carefully pruned forest stands, with cellophane covered greenhouses on farm plots, and strategically located rain water impounding ponds on the mountain sides to ensure year-long supply—nature in Japan seem to serve as a backdrop to a densely populated humanity in the same way that Central Park functions for Manhattan.

Those who cross the Pacific from Saipan to the continental U.S. have two options: the tropical route through Guam and Hawaii on to Houston and Newark, and the temperate-polar route via Nagoya-Tokyo on to the twin cities of Minnesota and Detroit. I have been taking the Nippon route lately, if only because flights are more frequent and are relatively less expensive. I find that even trips to Southeast Asia and the Far East from Saipan are more

A half a day in Metro Japan



The urban nature of Japanese existence is most evident from the air—Hiroshima to Fukuoka is just one big swathe of lights ablaze on a clear night.

conveniently made through Northwest's best than global Air Continental.

However, connecting NWA flights out of Japan from Saipan to regional destinations tend to have lengthy in-transit waiting

periods, and the Japanese version of *yin-yang* is not always apparent in its good sense. For instance, connecting flights to Manila and Shanghai require at least five hours of transit time. Passengers are captive audienc-

es and one would think that they would be encouraged to shop 'til they drop, but one is discouraged from purchasing any commodity in liquid form at the duty free shops in either Nagoya or Narita since both airports conduct security measures that, as a matter of course, confiscate any purchases of fluid products from either site by the security personnel on the other. This practice of two security checks within the same country when there has

uniform housing, with the well-tended gardens, water-impounding ponds and farms on land; as well as the flotilla of ships, boats and barges plying the ocean lanes this day, abundant in both tranquil (Osaka/Nagoya) and choppy (Tokyo) waters. This sea habitation reveals the maritime basis and continuing orientation of Japanese commerce and trade.

One remembers that Japan's navigational prowess and the advances in armaments technology it enjoyed at the onset of World War II made it a formidable naval power at the time. Today, goods-laden barges headed to the four winds, and oil and mineral-bearing tankers imported from Africa, Asia and the Middle East plies the southwest Pacific lanes toward and from the port of Nagoya. The vaunted Pacific Century is unmistakably a Nippongo-initiated maneuver later joined by Singapore cool-headedness and discipline, Taiwanese quiet assertiveness (the U.S.' Israel in the Far East) and mistaken reticence, Korean bold aggression and petulance, and now, Chinese prominence and dominance. Where once Japan presided over the world's market by virtue of its productivity, it has since invested in other regions to allow its land of the rising sun mastheads and logos flourish in other climes. It has also joined the ranks of the G-8 nations in

offices in Shinjuku, a reminder of the plight of the marginalized elderly and those who are socio-mentally challenged. With a tolerated unemployment rate of 5 percent, the post-WWII lifetime employment security that once characterized the *shimbatus* no longer prevails. As loyalty and dependence to homegrown institutions wane, the taste and style of the young had chop-sticked-over its essence to Wall Street and Hollywood, and the *suba odon* has found its way into fashion haunts and lanes of London, Paris and Rome. Those who fail the standards of CQ and Elle have been known to seek pharmacological delights in a growing phalange of despair and addiction.

This half a day of traveling with Japan Inc.'s working class (Saipan is on the low-end of preferred tourist destination below Palau/FSM/Marshalls, Guam and Hawaii, where the budget-conscious pinch their pennies at McDonald's and KFC) afforded this social observer another insight into the citizens of this Island Kingdom of the Sea, at once, reviled and admired, forsaken and courted, studied and ignored for their enormous wealth and their inimitable mystery, by those who come in contact with their often conflicting national policies and the awe-filling wonder of their recently much traveled people.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Of our Dearly Beloved Mother



†ANDREA ROBERTO CAMACHO

We the children respectfully invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorated the first death anniversary. Masses to be offered in her memory will be celebrated at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00 p.m. daily except on Sunday, March 30, 2008, Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m.

On the last day, Monday, March 31, 2008 Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Church. Dinner will be served immediately after the Mass at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony C. Tenorio at I Denni.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMAGUON

IN OUR HEARTS

We thought of you with love today, But there is nothing new, We thought about yesterday, and days before that too.
We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. Now all we have is memories and your picture in frame.
Your memory is our keepsake. With which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, We have you in our hearts.

Not unlike the Boston to Washington D.C. corridor in the Atlantic seaboard, the Hiroshima to Fukuoka is just one big swathe of lights ablaze on a clear night. On this Good Friday, flying into Nagoya from Saipan showed from the air stretches and stretches of highways, downtowns and uniform housing, with the well-tended gardens, water-impounding ponds and farms on land.

not been a crossing of a border is hard to understand, more so when the stopover in Nagoya is allotted but an hour to execute. That includes alighting off the plane with ALL carry-on luggage, walking from one end of the terminal to another, and then returning to the gate for another check-in queue. A delayed flight translates easily into a nightmare.

The urban nature of Japanese existence is most evident from the air, especially on the eastern corridors of interconnected metropolitan areas. Not unlike the Boston to Washington D.C. corridor in the Atlantic seaboard, the Hiroshima to Fukuoka is just one big swathe of lights ablaze on a clear night. On this Good Friday, flying into Nagoya from Saipan showed from the air stretches and stretches of highways, downtowns and

delivering sophisticated services in banking and investments. More than half of the top banking institutions in the world are members of Japan Inc.

But Metro Japan remains the unsurpassed technology kingpin in the region. Its dominating technology in optics, semiconductors, and miniaturize digital products is unquestionably without equal. The fact that it is its own domestic market for its products as well guarantees homegrown innovations. It also allows its protected industries to operate at a less cost effective level, a government-supported corporate sector response to employment and social security.

Yet urban blight cannot be hidden in the cracking *kabuki* face of a reputation-sensitive society. The homeless gather around the Tokyo Municipal

Their image of how they are treated in the CNMI, this once bastion of sugarcane production in a chain of islands leading to the mainland of its empire is of mixed review. Their investments are perceived to have been ignored into decrepitude and dilapidation, and their touring populace continually mistreated if not abused, but they keep coming and leaving their cultural imprints and economic ethos behind, for the mighty yen brooks no serious competition anywhere.

Japan Inc. is at once traditional and futuristic, common yet alluring. Its journey amidst globalizing Earth is quietly engaging, and subversively it seems, very much becoming our very own. And the discerning quietly utter under their breath: *Domo arigato guzaimasen!*

Crash survivor in ID mix-up writes book

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Critically injured in a highway crash that killed five others, mourned as dead by relatives and friends after a stunning identity mix-up, Whitney Cerak still marvels at being alive—and wonders why.

"I'm the only person I know who's listened to her own funeral," the 20-year-old says in the epilogue of a new book written by the families whose lives were intertwined in an ordeal of joy, sorrow and faith. "That was pretty weird."

Why did she survive the wreck on April 26, 2006, when four fellow students and a staff member from Taylor University in Upland, Ind., did not?

"I still don't get that," Cerak writes in "Mistaken Identity: Two Families, One Survivor, Unwavering Hope," which was released Tuesday. "Maybe I'm not supposed to. Even if I

can't figure it out, I know that God has a purpose for it, even if I never completely understand what it may be."

Cerak, who grew up in Gaylord, Mich., spent five weeks in a coma while the parents of Laura Van Ryn stood vigil by her side, believing she was their daughter.

Authorities in Grant County, Ind., had confused the two young women during the chaotic aftermath of the collision between a semi-truck and a school van on Interstate 69, midway between Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. Their blond hair and even some facial features were similar.

Cerak's parents, Newell and Colleen Cerak, declined to view the body they believed was their daughter's, preferring to remember Whitney as she had appeared in life.

Meanwhile, Don and Su-

sie Van Ryn—and others who knew Laura—believed her appearance had been altered by facial injuries. Only when she began mentioning strange names while slowly regaining consciousness did they suspect something was amiss, the 275-page book explains.

One day, her physical therapist asked the patient to write her name on a sheet of paper. "WHITNEY," the woman wrote. As her father wheeled her back to her room, she mumbled, "False parents."

Uncertainty gnawing at her, Van Ryn's sister, Lisa, watched a "memories of Whitney" video the family had been sent. The eyes, the teeth, eerily resembled those of the person she thought was her sister.

Her father checked with one of the people who had identified the victims at the crash scene. There was "room for doubt," the person admitted.

Finally, after another therapy session, Lisa knelt in front of the young woman and asked her name. Whitney, was the response. And her last name? Cerak.

The Van Ryns were devastated, but quickly arranged for dental records to be checked.

That night, Colleen Cerak was awakened by a phone call from the Grant County coroner. "We have reason to believe your daughter may be alive," he said. Whitney's sister, Carly, furiously urged her mother to hang up, believing it was a prank.

But within hours, they



AP
This combination of undated photos released by Taylor University shows Whitney Cerak, left, and Laura VanRyn, both students at Taylor University.

stood at Whitney's bedside, sobbing with joy.

"Mistaken Identity," co-written with author Mark Tabb and published by Howard Books, a division of Simon & Schuster,

weaves together narrative and religious testimony.

Both families are deeply committed Christians; Newell Cerak is a pastor at Gaylord Evangelical Free Church.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION "Ginen I Korason Name"



To say "Thank you or Si Yu'us Ma'ase" may be very simple, yet it comes with sincere interpretation of true feelings from the heart, and it is the expression our hearts are pouring out to our many relatives and friends, from near and far, who came and stood by us expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraced us with much love as we endure the pain of loss of our dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother,

**† JOSE IGIBOR
(MAGUINES)
SEMAN.**

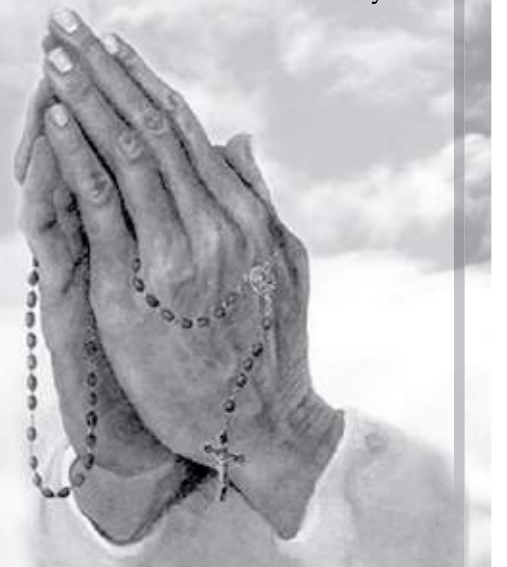
Your presence at the daily masses of intention, nightly rosaries, and most especially during the Mass of the Christian Burial deeply touched our hearts and assures us of how much our dearly beloved is loved and in his own special way, is indeed grateful for your presence, love and support.

Our family extends a special "Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase" to Dr. Vicente Aldan & the staff at Saipan Health Clinic, attending physicians and nurses at Commonwealth Health Center, Sablan's Enterprises Inc., Borja Funeral Home, Department of Public Safety, Nightly Techa – Bro. Donald B. Mendiola, The CNMI Cursillo Movement, St. Jude Friends Choir, Monsignor James LG. Benavente, the Clergy members of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Ms. Alicia DLG. Guerrero & Family, Mr. & Mrs. James (Maryann) Reyes, The First Floral Shop and all our family and friends who in one way or another cared for our beloved or stood by our side during our time of sorrow.

Our dearly beloved is now at rest and as each day begins, we look forward to keep our dearly beloved's spirit alive and fond memories of him never be forgotten. Your kindness and love will forever be treasured as we keep them close to our hearts and we ask the Almighty God to shower us all with His graces and blessings as we move on with our lives.

Un Dankulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ya Si Yu'us U-Bendise Hit Todos.

**Margarita Benavente Seman
Children & Family
Lucia Seman Iriarte & Children**



BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Fiction

◆ *Lush Life*, by Richard Price (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: \$26) The layered lives of victims, perpetrators and the Lower East Side are explored after a shooting.

◆ *The Silver Swan*, by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt: \$25) A Dublin pathologist investigates the suicide of a woman with a double life.

◆ *The Appeal*, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire enlists political help to kill a \$41-million jury award over toxic-waste dumping.

◆ *Remember Me?* by Sophie Kinsella (Dial Press: \$25) An ambitious woman finds her fortunes improved after a three-year bout of amnesia.

◆ *Change of Heart*, by Jodi Picoult (Atria: \$26.95) A man on death row for murder complicates matters when he offers to donate his heart to a victim's sister.

◆ *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: \$25.95) A rare-books expert traces the history of a priceless Jewish tome to 15th century Spain.

◆ *A Prisoner of Birth*, by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's: \$27.95) Four friends frame a man for murder.

◆ *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead: \$25.95) Two Afghan women struggle to survive jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny.

◆ *7th Heaven*, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99) Detective Lindsay Boxer seeks a murderous arsonist and a missing teen.

◆ *The Senator's Wife*, by Sue Miller (Knopf: \$24.95) A bride learns from a politician's long-suffering spouse.

Nonfiction

◆ *Beautiful Boy*, by David Sheff (Houghton Mifflin: \$24) A father recounts his talented son's descent into methamphetamine addiction.

◆ *The Third Jesus*, by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$24) Chopra makes a case for a more modern, and mystical, interpretation of Jesus Christ.

◆ *In Defense of Food*, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.

◆ *The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled.

◆ *Losing It*, by Valerie Bertinelli (Free Press: \$26) How the teen TV star then rocker's wife got her life back.

◆ *The Age of American Unreason*, by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon: \$26) Our descent into junk culture.

◆ *Aristotle and an Aardvark Go to Washington*, by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein (Abrams: \$18.95) Washington double-speak meets ancient philosophy.

◆ *Hope's Boy*, by Andrew Bridge (Hyperion: \$22.95) The harrowing story of a life in the foster-care system.

◆ *The 4-Hour Workweek*, by Timothy Ferriss (Crown: \$19.95) How to outsource your stress.

◆ *Happier Than God*, by Neale Donald Walsch (Hampton Roads: \$18.95) The author of Conversations With God describes how a direct collaboration with God can improve one's life.

LA Times investigates Shakur documents

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Times will conduct an internal investigation concerning the authenticity of documents used in a story that implicate associates of Sean “Diddy” Combs in a 1994 assault on Tupac Shakur, the editor of the newspaper said Wednesday.

In a story posted on the newspaper Web site, Editor Russ Stanton said he ordered the review after the editor of the Web site The Smoking Gun told the newspaper he had reason to doubt the validity of the FBI records that were supposed to back up the story.

“We’re taking this very seriously and we have begun our own investigation,” Nancy Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the newspaper,

told The Associated Press.

The Smoking Gun said the documents seemed phony because they appeared to be written on a typewriter instead of a computer, included blacked-out sections not typically found in such documents, and other reasons. The Smoking Gun story claims the documents were created by a convicted con man and music fan with a history of exaggerating his place in the rap music world.

Combs denies that he had any prior knowledge of or involvement in the 1994 robbery and shooting of Shakur at a New York recording studio.

The Times has said its March 17 story was based on FBI records, interviews with people at the scene

of the 1994 shooting, and statements to the FBI by an informant. None of the sources was named.

The 1994 shooting triggered the celebrated feud between East and West Coast rappers that led to the killings of Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.

The story said associates hoping to curry favor with Combs—who was overseeing B.I.G.’s white-hot career at the time—lured Shakur to the studio because of his disrespect toward them.

The Times story posted Wednesday said the newspaper had not responded as of Tuesday to a request for a retraction from Combs’ attorney, Howard Weitzman.

The March 17 story and related features on latimes.com attracted nearly 1 million hits—more viewers than any other story on latimes.com this year, the newspaper said.



Combs

Steve McQueen heirs sue clothing maker

NEW YORK (AP)—Heirs of the late actor Steve McQueen have gone to court to stop an apparel manufacturer from using the King of Cool’s name and likeness to promote its products without their consent.

Chadwick McQueen and The Terry McQueen Testamentary Trust say in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that McQueen’s name and likeness have been ripped off by Belstaff USA Corp. They’ve asked the court to stop the company from marketing jackets, coats, sweaters, T-shirts, pants and shoes under the name of the actor, who starred in classics such as “Bullitt” and “The Great Escape” and died in 1980.

The lawsuit said the rights to merchandise



McQueen

carrying McQueen’s name belong to his two children, Chad and Terry. The lawsuit said Terry McQueen died in 1998, leaving her rights and assets to her daughter, Molly Flattery, through the trust.

The lawsuit seeks a judicial order to stop Belstaff and related companies from manufacturing or selling items that carry the actor’s name or messages related to him. It also seeks unspecified damages.

A telephone message left at Belstaff’s Manhattan office was not immediately returned Tuesday. Belstaff is based in Italy.

McQueen’s film credits also include “The Magnificent Seven,” “The Cincinnati Kid” and the critically acclaimed “Papillon,” which costarred Dustin Hoffman.

Richard Widmark dies at 93

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Richard Widmark, who made a sensational film debut as the giggling killer in “Kiss of Death” and became a leading man in “Broken Lance,” “Two Rode Together” and 40 other films, died at his home in Roxbury after a long illness. He was 93.

Widmark’s wife, Susan Blanchard, said he died Monday. She would not provide details of his illness and said funeral arrangements are private.

“It was a big shock, but he was 93,” Blanchard said.

Widmark earned an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor for his role in the 1947 thriller “Kiss of Death.” He played Tommy Udo, who delighted in pushing an old lady in a wheelchair down a flight of stairs to her death. It was his only Oscar nomination.

“That damned laugh of mine!” he told a reporter in 1961. “For two years after that picture, you couldn’t get me to smile. I played the part the way I did because the script struck me as funny and the part I played made me laugh. The guy was such a ridiculous beast.”

Actress Shirley Jones, who appeared with Widmark and James Stewart in “Two Rode Together” and became a good friend, said she was devastated about Widmark’s death.

“He was a down-to-earth guy, and I respected him for that,” Jones said in a phone interview from Los Angeles. “He was a real guy, but he was such a wonderful actor.”

A.C. Lyles, a producer with Paramount Pictures, worked with Widmark on the 1975 western “The Last Day.”

“Dick was just one of the nicest guys I ever worked with: very, very professional, very, very prepared and he couldn’t have been more cooperative,” Lyles said.

“He would have little comments to make during rehearsal about a scene and it was never a suggestion that would enhance him,” he said. “It was always to enhance someone else in the scene and I thought that was



AP
In this 1984 photo released by Columbia Pictures, actor Richard Widmark appears in a scene from the film “Against All Odds, with actress Jane Greer.

very courageous of him.”

A quiet, inordinately shy man, Widmark often portrayed killers, cops and Western gunslingers. But he said he hated guns.

“I know I’ve made kind of a half-assed career out of violence, but I abhor violence,” he remarked in a 1976 Associated Press interview. “I am an ardent supporter of gun control. It seems incredible to me that we are the only civilized nation that does not put some effective control on guns.”

Widmark was born Dec. 26, 1914, in Sunrise, Minn., where his father ran a general store, then became a traveling salesman. The family moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., Henry, Ill., and Chillicothe, Mo., before settling in Princeton, Ill.

“Like most small-town boys, I had the urge to get to the big city and make a name for myself,” he recalled in a 1954 interview.

“I was a movie nut from the age of 3, but I don’t recall having any interest in acting,” he said.

But at Lake Forest College, he became a protege of the drama teacher and met his first wife, drama student Ora Jean Hazelwood. Their daughter, Ann, became the wife of baseball immortal Sandy Koufax.

Two years out of college, Wid-

mark reached New York in 1938 during the heyday of radio drama. His mellow Midwest voice made him a favorite in soap operas, and he found himself racing from one studio to another.

Rejected by the Army because of a punctured eardrum, Widmark began appearing in Broadway plays in 1943. His first was a comedy hit “Kiss and Tell.” He was appearing in the Chicago company of “Dream Girl” with June Havoc when 20th Century Fox signed him to a seven-year contract. He almost missed out on the “Kiss of Death” role.

“The director, Henry Hathaway, didn’t want me,” the actor recalled. “I have a high forehead; he thought I looked too intellectual.” The director was overruled by studio boss Darryl F. Zanuck, and Hathaway “gave me kind of a bad time.”

An immediate star, Widmark appeared in 20 Fox films from 1957 to 1964. Among them: “The Street with No Name,” “Road House,” “Yellow Sky,” “Down to the Sea in Ships,” “Slattery’s Hurricane,” “Panic in the Streets,” “No Way Out,” “The Halls of Montezuma,” “The Frogmen,” “Red Skies of Montana,” “My Pal Gus” and the Samuel Fuller film noir “Pickup on South Street.”

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NOW SHOWING



Superhero Movie

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00

Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13

Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as “The Dragonfly.” However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person’s life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, “The Hourglass.”



Definitely Maybe

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25

Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

Synopsis

A thirtysomething Manhattan dad is in the midst of a divorce when his 10-year-old daughter, Maya, starts to question him about his life before marriage. Maya wants to know absolutely everything about how her parents met and fell in love: Will’s story begins in 1992, as a young, starry-eyed aspiring politician who moves to New York from Wisconsin in order to work on the presidential campaign.



Dr. Seuss’ Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05

Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated G

Synopsis

An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn’t know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the party—because “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”



10,000 BC

Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13



Never Back Down

Friday 4:25 7:35 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30

Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
Action, Adventure • Rated R

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K-Fed says he's on full-time daddy duty

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Federline says he's been on full-time daddy duty since getting custody of his two toddler sons.

"I spend most of the day chasing my kids around the house," he tells *In Touch Weekly* magazine. "Their needs define my schedule every day."

Federline has had sole custody of Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 18 months, since early this year after months of bizarre behavior by his ex-wife, Britney Spears. The couple, who wed in October 2004, divorced last July.



Federline

Spears is now under the court-ordered conservatorship of her father, James Spears.

"It is so very important to me that my children

will always know and never question, that no matter what happens, they have a mommy and daddy who love them very much," Federline, 30, tells the magazine.

Last week, the 26-year-old pop star was ordered by a Los Angeles court commissioner to pay Federline \$375,000 to cover his attorney fees in their child-custody dispute.

Federline also has a son and daughter with ex-girlfriend Shar Jackson.

"I will always love the mothers of my children, and I will always be there for both of them," Federline says.

"I believe that any good energy I put out there brings more good energy into my own life. The relationships with my kids and family will last my whole life and are the most important to me," he says.

'American Idol' cuts another contestant

NEW YORK (AP)—Uneasy lies Chikezie, who won't wear the crown. The one-name singer—who previously worked security at Los Angeles International Airport—was eliminated from "American Idol" as the show narrowed the competition to nine finalists.

Chikezie, 22, of Inglewood, Calif., injected the singing contest with enthusiasm and soul. His performances could be risky and kinetic, as when he sang the Beatles' "She's A Woman," or safe and retro, as seen in his earlier rendition of "More Today than Yesterday."

Simon Cowell criticized Chikezie for sing-

ing the ballad "If Only for One Night" on Tuesday's performance show: "You chose the wrong song last night. ... It wasn't original."

The other lowest vote-getters were Jason Castro and Syesha Mercado.

Tattooed finalist Carly Smithson took a moment to address speculation she's expecting a child with her husband. She told host Ryan Seacrest: "Apparently I'm pregnant—but I'm not."

Wednesday's show also featured a performance by "Idol" also-ran Kimberley Locke, who placed third behind Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken in season two.



AP

Contestant Chikezie attends the "American Idol" annual Top 12 Party Thursday, March 6, 2008 in West Hollywood, Calif.

Fondness for fur threatens to smother marriage plans

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently moved in with my 41-year-old fiancé, "Sean." He's a great guy, never married, no children, and I love him dearly.

I have discovered something disturbing about Sean. He has this "security fur" he can't part with. He told me he has used it since he was very young and says that the feel of it calms him down. However, I believe the "fur" has other uses besides being his security blanket.

When I became upset about it, Sean hid it from me. He only came clean (somewhat) after I told him I don't like finding those pieces of fur. I have found them in his bed, in his robe pocket, in between the sofa cushions, etc. How can I break him of this "habit"? It makes me uncomfortable, and I guess the truth is I'm somewhat jealous of the darn thing. Besides, it reminds me of a dead animal.

How can I get the fur out of both of our lives without destroying our relationship and jeopardizing our upcoming marriage?

—FUR-IOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FUR-IOUS: Over the years, I have received mail from more than a few readers who have told me they still have remnants of their baby blankets they're unable to part with—and that touching the fabric calms them when they're agitated. However, because you suspect that your fiancé may use the fur for "other things," it is important that you be clear on exactly what they are before you marry him.

My advice is to have a frank, nonthreatening chat with Sean—in the presence of a marriage counselor, if necessary—and get to the bottom of it. If Sean has a fur fetish—and by that I mean he needs it for arousal—you will have to decide if this "kink" is something you can live with.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 45-year-old man with a dilemma. Two years ago, I met a wonderful 22-year-old woman who has a terrible eating disorder. Over the last two years she has been hospitalized probably 18 months out of 24. Many people have come into her life and promised to be her friend, and all of them have given up on her as her parents have.

There was a time when I didn't miss a day of visiting her, sometimes driving an hour and a half one way. I was the only person going there and bringing her what she needed or wanted. What started as a friendship turned into a relationship. We love each other very much.

The age difference is a problem to some people—the same ones who at one time didn't care enough to visit when she needed them the most. They say she won't live past the age of 25 because of the damage she has done to her body.

The short periods of time she has been out of the hospital we have traveled across the U.S. on little trips. She loved it, and so did I. All I want to do is make sure she enjoys what life she has left. I believe I'm doing the right thing. What do you think?

—IN LOVE IN ST. PAUL

DEAR IN LOVE: Your ladyfriend may be young, but you are both adults. Time is precious, and you should enjoy as much of it as you can together.

Also, unless you were told by her physician that she has only a short time to live, you shouldn't dwell too much on how long she has left. Happiness can be a great healer, and she could surprise everyone.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby – Teen Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Robin Williams, wife are divorcing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After nearly 19 years of marriage, Robin Williams and his wife are getting divorced. Marsha Garces Williams filed a petition for dissolution of marriage on March 21 in San Francisco Superior Court, citing irreconcilable differences. The two met when Garces Williams worked as a nanny for Williams' son Zachary, whom he had with his previous wife, Valerie Valardi. Robin and Garces Williams also have two children together, Zelda and Cody. Williams, 56, won an Academy Award for his role in the film "Good Will Hunting." He also starred in the 1980s sitcom "Mork & Mindy," and has acted in a number of movies including "Dead Poets Society" and "Patch Adams." Williams' agent Mara Buxbaum confirmed that the couple is splitting, but had no further comment. An attorney for his estranged wife would not comment on the case.

Justin Timberlake to host the ESPYs

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Timberlake is hosting an awards show—and it's not the Grammys. ESPN has lined up the 27-year-old singer-actor to host its annual ESPY Awards show this summer, celebrating some of the best and funniest moments in sports over the past year. The ceremony, to be held at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live in Los Angeles on July 20, will be televised live on ESPN, the network said Wednesday. Timberlake says he's a sports junkie. "I'll do my best to deliver a great show, as I do not want to be roughed up backstage by these

athletes who are bigger, faster and stronger than me," he said. Timberlake will be in the summertime movie, "The Love Guru," with Mike Myers and Jessica Alba. He recently showed a different kind of stage presence when he inducted Madonna into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Abdul set for 'Today' concert series

NEW YORK (AP)—Paula Abdul and Miley Cyrus are among the stars who will headline the "Today" show's 13th annual concert series. Abdul will kick off the series on the plaza outside the "Today" studio April 25, NBC announced Wednesday. She recently debuted her first new song in a decade, "Dance Like There's No Tomorrow," produced by fellow "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson. Cyrus is set to perform July 25. Other headliners include Ashlee Simpson, Rascal Flatts, Natasha Bedingfield, Neil Diamond, Mary J. Blige, Alanis Morissette, the B-52s, Donna Summer, Chris Brown, Kenny Chesney, Rihanna and Coldplay. Sheryl Crow will take the stage Aug. 1.

Richie Sambora arrested on suspected DUI

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Bon Jovi's Richie Sambora has been arrested for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol. The 48-year-old guitarist was arrested just before 11 p.m. Tuesday after an officer noticed his black Hummer weaving in traffic lanes, said Laguna Beach police Sgt. Jason Kravetz. Sambora was given field sobriety tests and arrested with-

out incident. He was booked at the Laguna Beach jail and released at 4 a.m., Kravetz said Wednesday. "He was very cooperative with all the staff," Kravetz said. A woman and two girls were passengers in the car, said Kravetz, who declined to release their names. Sambora was given notice to appear in court May 7 on one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence, Kravetz said. Sambora is a founding member of Bon Jovi. The band's last album, "Lost Highway," was released in 2007.

Kimora Lee Simmons files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kimora Lee Simmons has already moved on, but she took steps to make it official by filing for divorce from her husband of seven years, entertainment mogul Russell Simmons. Although the couple separated in March 2006, Kimora Lee Simmons just filed divorce papers Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. The 32-year-old Baby Phat fashion designer and reality TV star cited irreconcilable differences. She and Russell Simmons, 50, have two daughters: 8-year-old Ming Lee and 5-year-old Aoki Lee. Kimora Lee Simmons is seeking legal and physical custody of the children. She requested that Russell Simmons be granted "reasonable child visitation ... accompanied at all times by the children's nanny and security personnel." Russell Simmons co-founded Def Jam records and created Phat Farm clothing and HBO's "Def Comedy Jam." Kimora Lee Simmons has been dating actor Djimon Hounsou.

Pastimes

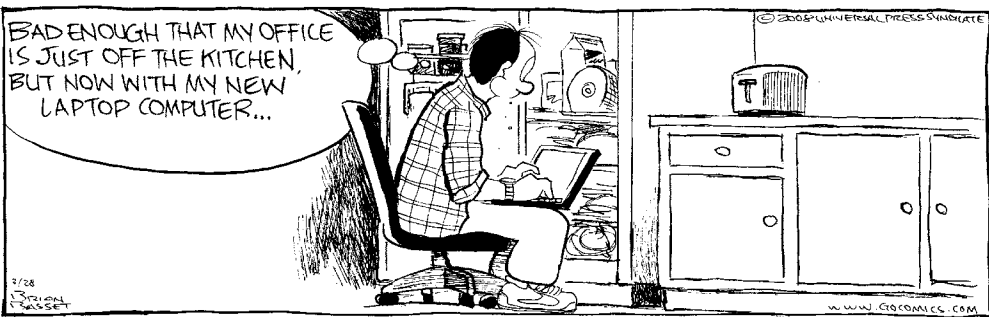
Calvin and Hobbes



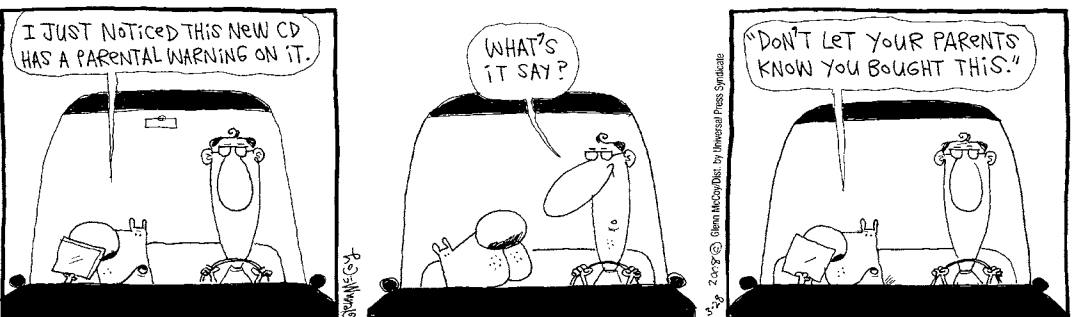
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chef's handwear

6 Period

9 Resort

12 Had a home-cooked meal

13 Poetic tribute

14 Pos-sesses

15 Wild West show

16 Destruc-tive

18 Laundry machine

20 Guy

21 Bill's partner

23 Mai —

24 Pie-in-the-face sound

25 "... bug in —"

27 Preamble

29 Put on eBay, maybe

31 Swarms

35 Skinfint

37 Oompah instru-ment

38 Custom

41 Filch

43 English channel?

44 Author

45 Nene's habitat

47 Sundry

49 Do

52 Previous to

53 Candle count

54 March King

55 Allow

56 Support-ing

57 Begin-ning

DOWN

1 Scratch

2 Judge

3 Tiresome

4 Layer

5 Treat dis-dainfully

6 Slain

7 Blood-hound's clue

8 Cow-poke's nickname

9 Sandbar

10 Zahn or Abdul

11 No liability

17 Balance-of-trade factor

19 Carpen-ter's supply

21 Ford or Lincoln

22 Raw rock

24 "No seats"

26 Early-June baby

28 Pitch

30 Torched

32 Stirring skepticism

33 Recede

34 Pouch

36 White-board accessory

38 Run-down home

39 Cognizant

40 Jaunty chapeau

42 — profundo

45 "The Hunch-back of Notre Dame" author

46 PC symbol

48 Lum-mox

50 Exploit

51 Tit for —

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julia Stiles, 27; Reba McEntire, 53; Dianne Wiest, 60; Ken Howard, 64

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional matters get you down. You can choose to become angry and bullheaded or you can choose to do something to rectify whatever problem exists. Getting involved in gossip, rumors or secret matters will work against you. Use your ability to see things clearly for a positive result. Your numbers are 1, 9, 20, 22, 29, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Understand what you are up against before making a move. If you take the proper steps, you can make some gains that will take everyone by surprise. This is not the time to show emotion, anger or joy. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't fold under pressure. Keep finances and love separate. A private matter may be revealed. Getting involved with someone who is off-limits may be inviting but it is likely to be costly. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be fooled by the signals someone is sending you. Confusion is likely to cause an emotional mess if you fall for someone's fast talk. A burden at home may leave you in a vulnerable position. Get away for the day. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have some good ideas but it will be frustrating getting them off the ground. Someone is likely to oppose or criticize you. You have the upper hand, so proceed with confidence and you will surpass your goal. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your emotions stop you from trying something you want to do. Let go of an old grudge and move on. A dynamic approach to an old idea will result in renewed interest. A social event will bring you in contact with someone who can alter your life. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take on a new task, hobby or pastime. Your serious nature will lead to an analysis of your future and your relationships. If you are questioning your connection with someone, he or she probably is as well. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can get your way if you make creative suggestions but make sure your plan is feasible. Thinking too big or taking on too much will result in errors and possible deception. Plan a bit of a fantasy trip or outing that will take your mind off your worries. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A surprise will bring about an unexpected opportunity. Don't hesitate to travel to a retreat or somewhere you have never been; the experience will inspire you. Love and romance are looking good. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give and take will be required today. If you aren't willing to do your share, expect to be criticized for your lack of enthusiasm. Problems due to a shortage of cash will arise at home. Empty promises are likely to be offered. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone may be hiding something from

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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you. Dig deep into your past and you will discover something that has relevance to your current situation. You can win a settlement or get what's owed to you if you hold your ground. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone with experience will take you under his or her wing. Learn all you can and put it to good use. With a little ingenuity, you can come up with a plan that will help you form a good relationship and save you some cash. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't trust anyone who is offering too much, too fast. If you let your emotions get involved in the mix, you will make a costly mistake. Do the work yourself and stay on top of what's going on. **

Birthday Baby: The bigger the challenge, the more enthusiastic you are. You are steadfast, tenacious and imaginative. You are passionate, relentless and determined to get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/28

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRAME IT! Solution: 5 letters

E G T R A V E L S D I K O O L
S R O U N D L W O O D E S K S
C O U L O N G H O M E E W S S
E U L T F Y N W A L L P E R C
N P A A P P A N O S Y S I E H
E S N M L A T L D H C A V N O
R C O A O L C N P P S K S R O
Y W I R E O E A S S E E H O L
O N S O A I R E E T I E S C A
E Y S R R G L R A R R E H N T
U V E F O C U R O A L A K G I
Q A F T I T O M U I N T F I G
A E O T C C E S M G L A S S I
L H R I E M S S E H S L A E D
P A P D I M P O R T A N T D S

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Area, Articles, Capture, Change, Corners, Deals, Decorate, Design, Desks, Digital, Fancy, Friends, Gift, Glass, Groups, Heavy, Home, Important, Keepsake, Kids, Layout, Long, Look, Mantle, Memories, Photography, Pictures, Plain, Plaque, Pose, Professional, Rectangle, Room, Round, Scenery, School, Show, Smiles, Square, Straight, Travel, View, Wall, Wire, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Misplaced

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate). Indicate \$5 postage for the first book order. \$1 plus for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (WF 0035)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided by company. Contact: Treasures Inc. @233-3701/03.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (WF 0036)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Work-ers compensation by employer; transportation is self arranged; food is self provided; housing is self arranged; medical at 80% by employer and 20% by employee. Contact: Man's Service, LLC dba Man's Service @322-6267.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0037)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Auto Clinic Com-pany @234-0994.

1 SHOP SUPERVISOR (WF 0038)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksmen compensation.

Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

1 WELDER (WF 0039)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.65/hour. Benefits: Self arranges housing; self provided food; medical & worksmen compen-sation. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

1 FARM WORKER (FSUN 0067)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; & medical. Contact: Dr. Vicente S. Aldan @235-8864.

1 OFFSET PRESS OPERATOR (FSUN 0068)
Salary:\$4.00-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Tropical Instant Press, Inc. @234-6267.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0069)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self ar-ranged housing; self provided food; medical under workers compensa-tion. Contact: D&C Corporation @287-3622.

1 GARDENER (FSUN 0070)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self ar-ranged housing; self provided food; medical under workers compensa-tion. Contact: D&C Corporation @288-2592.

WHATZIT Solution:
A pair of slippers

1 ADMIN. ASSISTATN (WF 0040)
Salary:\$615.33-\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by em-ployer. Contact: Anthony C. Ayuyu @235-5902.

1 HOUSEWORKER (FSUN 0071)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided by employer; food provided by employer & medical. Contact: Barbara Yamada @235-2624.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0072)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-cal reimbursable; workers compen-sation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 MECHANIC (FSUN 0073)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-cal reimbursable; workers compen-sation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-596

Plaintiff,

--v--

JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOROLKERIIL,

Defendants.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It May be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice, if uou fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by deafult may be taken againstn you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN T. SABLAN,
GLORIA DLG. SABLAN,
AND ANTONIO W. NEKAIFES.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in his matter on February 26,2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, an of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale.

The sale will be held on April 25, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shah have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of die property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of die property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

TUTORIAL & TRAINING

PEACHTREE ACCT.
QUICKBOOK ACCT

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Commercial Space & Room for Rent

- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Ming Li wholesale), work-shop, office, day-care, etc. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laulau.
- Room from \$60-\$140 monthly. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laulau.

Contact Ivan @ 285-9966, 235-0479
email:ivanhome_6@hotmail.com

FOR RENT

ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS, in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Market, off Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully air conditioned with dresser and walk in closets. All rooms have ceiling fans. Fully furnished along with its own washing machine, \$425. Call Ed at 235-0409.

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

ACCOUNTANT

2 TO 3 YEARS MIN WORK EXPERIENCE

SALARY: \$4.05-4.55/HOUR

PLEASE CALL 235-5572/4

22 FT. SHAMROCK
WARRIOR

170 HP Yanmar Diesel
Engine (Inboard)

\$14,000 or best offer

Call: 788-3787 or 285-2713

WE WANT TO BUY A HOUSE
AND LOT OR WAREHOUSE.

ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

PLEASE CALL 235-4928.

CHVA

CHC VOLUNTEERS' GARAGE SALE

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Set up - 6:30am - 7:30am

Sale - 8:00am - 3:00pm

CHC Parking Area

Clean out your closet!
It's a great opportunity to
sell things you no longer
need and find just what
you are looking for!

Tent spaces cost \$20 and
are limited. Call Kim Prinz
@ 287-2428 or email:
kprinz@excite.com to
reserve your space now!

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CRM-052

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 6, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT REPORT FOR
CNMI BEACHES AND LAGOON USAGE FOR THE
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE MORGEN BUILDING ON BEACH ROAD, IN SAN JOSE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRMO NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNER, AT (670) 664-8311, OR BY EMAILING kathy.yuknavage@crm.gov.mp.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

BANANA
BANANA

Find today's solution in this section

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Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

• 3-Liner

• 5-Liner

• 3-Liner with picture

• 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

\$25

\$35

\$45

\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position

2nd position

Succeeding positions

\$13.00

\$5.00

\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-tion date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at **235-2769**
for more details.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



WANTED

1 PART-TIME COOK

Experience in Western and Japanese Cuisine

1 Full-time Computer Technical/Programmer

Email resumes to linachavez05@hotmail.com
Please Contact Lina at 234-6533



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



2 MASON (FSUN 0074)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 ELECTRICIAN (FSUN 0075)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 CARPENTER (FSUN 0076)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

Make it a
daily habit!

Log on to
www.saipantribune.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION** at the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-50/53 will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway "A", demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway "A" into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashiers check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid proposal price of the Phase 1 total construction amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: February 29, 2008



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-026

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Computers, Accessories, Cameras, LCD Projectors, and LCD Screens for Dandan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/s/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer

Riley: Shaq's criticisms of Heat 'sad'

NEW YORK (AP)—Pat Riley can't understand why Shaquille O'Neal keeps talking about the Miami Heat. Riley responded to O'Neal's criticisms Wednesday with some of his own, saying his former center was wrong to disparage some of his old teammates and trainers in a Boston Globe story.

"It's sad that he says those things. We shared so much here, together, for three years, good and bad, 3 1/2 years," Riley said, referring specifically to the Heat's 2006 NBA title. "I just think it's sad that he's got to do that."

Riley dealt O'Neal to Phoenix before the trade deadline, allowing the 36-year-old center the chance to compete for another title instead of sticking around Miami for a last-place finish. O'Neal made it clear how much he prefers his new teammates.

"I love playing for this coach and I love playing with these guys," O'Neal told the Globe. "We have professionals who know what to do. No one is asking me to play with Chris Quinn or Ricky Davis. I'm actually on a team again."

After Phoenix's loss to Boston, O'Neal elaborated, saying that defenses would sag off of Quinn and Davis and he wasn't able to get the ball. Of Riley's comments, O'Neal said colorfully, "I don't (care) how he interpreted it."

Reminded that reporters couldn't use the quote because of the expletive, he said, "Sure you can. You can quote me, brother. You can put an 's,' then the tic-tac-toe, the 'at' sign and then the other symbols."

Riley said he doesn't have "anything but good feelings for Shaq" and wasn't bothered by any criticism leveled at him. But he said O'Neal has no reason to blame anyone else in the organization for his unhappiness.

"When you're 9-40, we're all frustrated. I mean everybody's at fault, we all were. Everybody was feeling bad and nobody wants that," Riley said.

"He didn't want to be there, he didn't want to play for that kind of situation, 35 years old. He wanted to go to a contender and we sent him there. We sent him to Utopia and we're left here with the carnage and I don't know why he's not happy."

Riley also defended the work of veteran trainer Ron Culp and the team's medical staff, saying O'Neal was out of line to speak poorly of them.

"It's really a shame that he would insult those people like that because they gave him care. They cared," Riley said. "They didn't kiss his butt. They cared about him."

"He can do whatever he wants to do to me. That's OK, I don't care. But those men, they tried. ... That upsets me more than anything."

Celtics respond to defeats with win over Suns



BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics responded to successive defeats and beat the Phoenix Suns 117-97 in the NBA on Wednesday.

Kevin Garnett scored 30 points, sinking the final two to chants of "M-V-P!" from home fans, and Paul Pierce had 12 of his 27 in the fourth quarter for Boston, which broke away from Phoenix in the third quarter.

The Suns remained 1-1/2 games off the Pacific Division-leading Los Angeles Lakers, and are sixth in the Western Conference playoff race.

Hornets 100, Cavaliers 99

In Cleveland, David West's 17-foot jumpshot with less than a second left led New Orleans over Cleveland and to its fifth straight win.

The Hornets retained the Western Conference's best record and improved to 2-0 on a six-game road trip against the weaker Eastern Conference.

Cleveland had its nine-game home winning streak end but stayed fourth in the East's playoff race.

Bobcats 108, Lakers 95

In Los Angeles, Jason Richardson had 34 points and 10 rebounds to lead Charlotte to a stunning 108-95 win over Los Angeles.

Lakers' star Kobe Bryant drew two technical fouls in a span of 29 seconds late in the fourth quarter and was ejected.

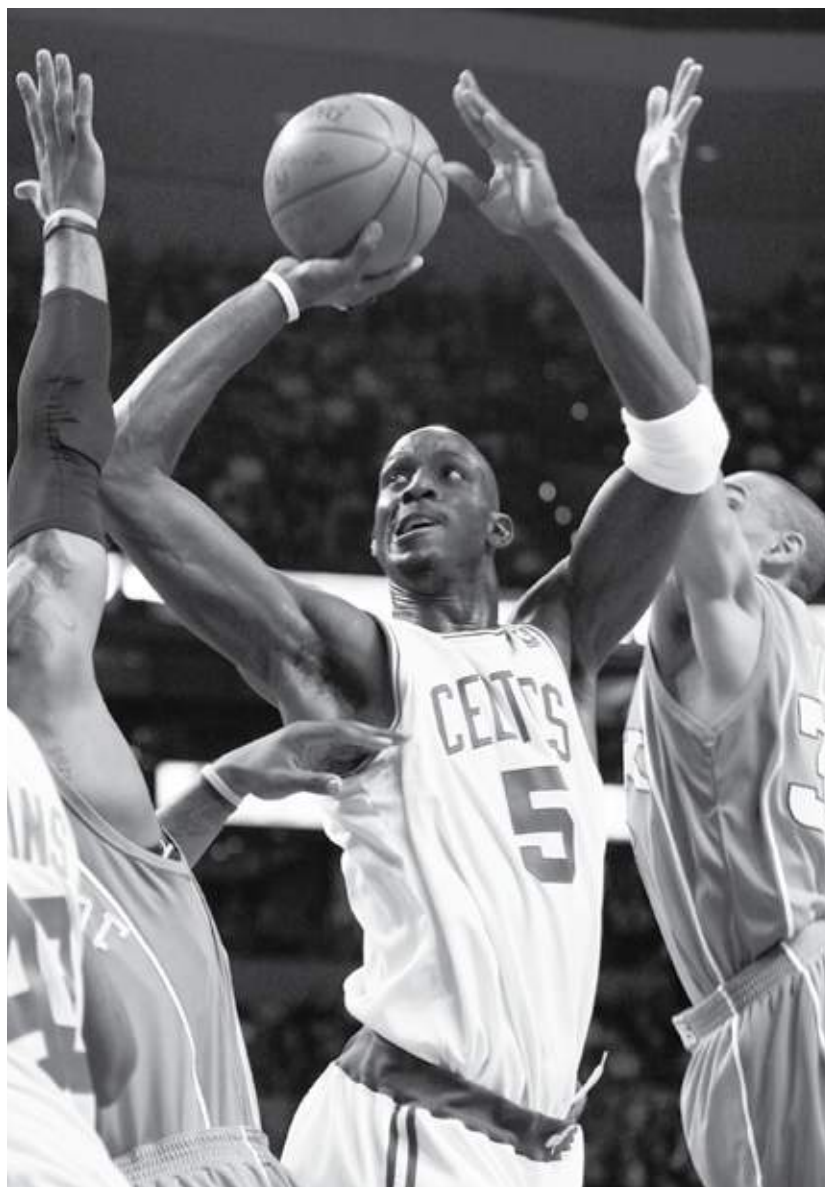
The loss dropped the Lakers into a three-way tie for second place in the Western Conference with Houston and San Antonio. They trail the West-leading New Orleans by one game.

The Bobcats snapped a six-game road losing streak but remained five games out of the last Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Hawks 115, Bucks 96

In Atlanta, the home team downed Milwaukee to maintain the eighth and final playoff position in the Eastern Conference.

Joe Johnson scored 28 points and Josh Childress added 20 for the Hawks, who also escaped a major scare when X-rays on the left thumb of point guard Mike Bibby—who left the game in the fourth quarter—



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) shoots between two unidentified Phoenix Suns players during the first quarter of Boston's 117-97 win in a basketball game in Boston Wednesday, March 26, 2008. Garnett had 30 points in the win.

showed no break.

Atlanta is half a game ahead of New Jersey in the race for the last playoff spot.

Raptors 89, Pistons 82

In Toronto, Chris Bosh scored 21 points to lead Toronto past Detroit.

T.J. Ford had 13 points and nine assists in his return to the starting lineup for the Raptors, who avoided falling below .500 for the first time since November.

Knicks 103, Heat 96, OT

In New York, the home team ended its longest home losing streak in 45 years

by beating Miami.

Jamal Crawford scored 24 points, including the go-ahead jump shot in overtime, for the Knicks, who had dropped a franchise record-tying seven in a row at home for the first time since 1963.

76ers 121, Bulls 99

In Philadelphia, Lou Williams scored 23 points to lead Philadelphia over Chicago.

Andre Miller had a season-high 18 assists for the 76ers, who dominated early and led by 22 points in the first half.

The Sixers are two games over .500 for the first time all season, have

won 11 of 12 at home and are 11-2 in March to charge up to sixth in the East standings.

Nets 124, Pacers 117

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the home team beat Detroit to keep pace with Atlanta for the final playoff berth in the East.

Devin Harris had 22 points and a career-best 15 assists for New Jersey, which remained a half-game behind the Hawks in the playoff chase.

The loss left the Pacers two games behind the Nets.

Rockets 97, Timberwolves 86

In Houston, the home team downed Minnesota to keep pace in the tight Western Conference playoff race.

Tracy McGrady scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Luis Scola had 18 points and a career-high 18 rebounds for the Rockets.

Houston is a game behind Southwest Division and West leader New Orleans.

Spurs 97, Clippers 88

In San Antonio, the home team withstood a late rally from Los Angeles.

Tim Duncan had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who recorded their fifth straight victory and stayed equal fourth in the Western Conference race.

Los Angeles has lost nine in a row.

Wizards 104, SuperSonics 99

In Seattle, reserve Roger Mason pumped in five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to lead Washington over Seattle.

Mason, who was averaging 8.6 points before the game, finished with 22 points. He matched his career high with six 3-pointers.

Kings 107, Grizzlies 106, OT

In Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 36 points and made two free throws in the closing seconds of overtime to help Sacramento past Memphis.

With the shot clock running down, Martin drove the lane and was fouled, hitting two free throws with 7.6 seconds remaining.

The Kings have beaten the Grizzlies 19 straight games at home.



NBA BRIEFS

Tim Donaghy's estranged wife's request for protective order dismissed

BRADENTON, Florida (AP)—A judge dismissed a request for a restraining order filed by former NBA referee Tim Donaghy's estranged wife because she did not attend a scheduled court hearing. Records show Kimberly Donaghy did not appear at a hearing Tuesday after requesting protection against her husband last week. She wrote in her petition that Tim Donaghy threatened to hit her during an argument and abused their four children. The Herald of Bradenton reported Tim Donaghy's attorney, Edward Sobel, told a judge during the hearing that the Donaghys shared an Easter meal on Sunday. The restraining order request was filed March 17, days after Manatee County sheriff's deputies were called to the couple's Bradenton home because they were fighting. According to a report, the argument was verbal and, "no injuries were observed." The pair were fighting over their upcoming divorce, the report stated. They have been married since 1995. A receptionist at Sobel's office told The Associated Press on Wednesday the firm did not have any comment. Kimberly Donaghy's attor-

ney is on vacation and was unavailable for comment, an assistant said. Tim Donaghy pleaded guilty last year to charges he conspired to engage in wire fraud and transmitted betting information through interstate commerce. He faces a maximum of 25 years in prison when he is sentenced in April. Donaghy acknowledged he provided NBA betting picks to gambling associates based on inside information. Authorities allege he also bet on games he officiated.

Michael Jordan jersey still NBA's best seller

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jordan is still on top as the NBA's leading salesman five years after he retired. Jordan has the best-selling jersey in the history of the NBA Store, the league announced on Wednesday in kicking off plans for its anniversary celebration. Kobe Bryant was second, followed by Allen Iverson. Like Jordan, they also changed uniform numbers or teams, creating more interest in their jerseys. LeBron James was fourth and Shaquille O'Neal rounded out the top five. The remainder of the list included: Tracy McGrady, Dwyane Wade, Jason Kidd, Vince Carter and Tim Duncan.

The top-10 list was the first of activities planned over the next six months, leading up to the store's 10th anniversary. The NBA Store opened on Sept. 18, 1998, in New York, becoming the first retail establishment owned, operated and merchandised by a North American professional sports league. The store receives visitors from about 200 countries each year.

Court won't hear appeal in Jordan case

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The Illinois Supreme Court said Wednesday it would not hear an appeal in the long-running legal dispute between retired Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan and an Indianapolis woman. Jordan and Karla Knafel went to court in 2002 after she claimed he agreed in 1991 to pay her \$5 million when he retired from professional basketball to keep an affair secret. DNA tests later showed her child wasn't Jordan's. Jordan claimed Knafel was trying to extort him, and he won an appellate court decision last December. Knafel asked the state's highest court to reconsider, but it refused without explaining why.

A's top Red Sox 5-1 for split in Japan



TOKYO
(AP)—Split two games,

get back on a plane. Rich Harden struck out nine over six innings and Emil Brown hit a three-run homer, leading the Oakland Athletics to a 5-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night in the finale of their season-opening series in Japan.

"Last night we lost a heart-breaker. We won tonight. Now everyone's looking forward to getting back to the Bay Area and recovering," Oakland manager Bob Geren said.

Boston began its World Series title defense by winning Tuesday's opener 6-5 in 10 innings after rallying in the ninth. The Red Sox headed to Los Angeles after Wednesday's game for three more exhibitions against the Dodgers, including one at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Saturday.

"We'll take a step back tomorrow and have an optional workout," manager Terry Francona said. "We tried to do our homework on what to expect from travel. We're not going to talk ourselves into being tired, and we'll do what we need to do to get ready for the next start in Oakland."

After the New York Yankees went to Japan to start the 2004 season against Tampa Bay, several players said they had trouble adjusting when they got home.

The Red Sox and A's resume their regular seasons with a two-game series starting Tuesday in Oakland.

No team has ever swept a season-opening series in Japan. The Chicago Cubs and New York Mets split their two-game Japanese series in 2000, as did the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2004.

Since the teams arrived last week, the focus was on the Red Sox, coming off their second title in four seasons, and Oakland



Oakland Athletics closer Alan Embree (41) celebrates with catcher Kurt Suzuki after beating the Boston Red Sox 5-1 in their Major League Baseball regular season game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

was almost an afterthought.

Indeed, late in the game, an Oakland flag above the scoreboard in center fell and landed on the warning track between innings. A groundskeeper went out and retrieved it.

With Japanese stars Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima, the Red Sox were clearly the fan favorites.

"We were received so warmly," Francona said. "Having Daisuke and Hideki added to that and hopefully we gained some fans."

Harden (1-0) helped the A's gain something from the trip. He is coming back from three injury-plagued seasons, and he made just four starts last

year—none after July 7. This time, the right-hander allowed three hits and three walks, throwing 95 pitches.

"I had some bad luck the past couple of years," Harden said. "But hopefully, I can put that behind me and do what I need to do to help the ballclub this season."

Harden said he tried to stay focused for Wednesday's game and not let the unique surroundings at Tokyo Dome affect him.

"You want to be consistent with how you approach your starts," he said. "It did feel a bit different out there, almost like a playoff game, but you just try to treat it like any other game."

Oakland built a 4-0 lead

A-Rod won't address Canseco's claims

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Alex Rodriguez refused to address allegations by Jose Canseco, who claims he introduced the three-time MVP to a steroids dealer. "It's over as far as I'm concerned," Rodriguez said Wednesday after his New York Yankees lost 4-0 to the Philadelphia Phillies. "No further comment on the matter. I'm just excited to be playing baseball."

In the book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer named "Max." Excerpts from the book, slated for publication on April 1, were posted on deadspin.com before being removed Wednesday.

Canseco wrote that Rodriguez approached him years ago and asked where "one" might acquire steroids. During an interview to be broadcast Thursday by ABC's "Nightline," Canseco said he won't produce evidence to back his claim.

"The timing's not right," Canseco said, according to excerpts released by ABC. "Let's see how Alex reacts. Let's see if they all call me a liar again. How's that for you? Let's see if all of a sudden they're going to call me a liar again."

During the ABC interview, Canseco refused to identify "Max."

"We'll keep him out of it until the time is proper," Canseco said.

Yankees officials aren't concerned about a

potential distraction.

"Alex is one of the guys who can focus on the job at hand," New York manager Joe Girardi said. "I think he understands his surroundings better now. I've always felt that it takes players a little bit of time to figure out New York. And I found it to be a wonderful place to play. I loved it. But it takes some time. Some players it takes longer than others. But once you figure it out, it's an awesome place to play."

"He's always going to command a lot of attention because of the type of player he is," Girardi added. "And everything he does is going to be under a microscope. Is that fair? I don't know if it's fair, but it's reality."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman talked briefly with Rodriguez.

"He's been through so much over so long," Cashman said. "He's fine. You don't predict the future on this stuff, but I would think that this is something that isn't an issue for him. I've got a lot of other things to be worried about more than Alex Rodriguez, to be honest. You'd like to think he'd be the least of our worries."

Rodriguez has had a strong spring training, hitting .432 (16-for-37) with three homers and eight RBIs.

"I'm in a great frame of mind," he said. "I just plan to continue exactly what I was doing last year."

against Jon Lester (0-1) while Harden shut down the Red Sox. He allowed his only run in the sixth on a homer by Manny Ramirez, who struck out in his first two at-bats.

David Ortiz was 0-for-2 with a strikeout and a walk against Harden. Coming in, Ortiz was 4-for-5 against Harden, and Ramirez was 2-for-3, each homering twice.

"Rich showed tonight against the world champions how good he is and how much we need him," Geren said. "His entire spring training went well with no health issues. We're hoping to get 30-plus more starts like that."

Oakland went ahead in the second inning of this one when Bobby Crosby doubled and

scored on Chris Denorfia's single. Brown made it 4-0 with a three-run homer in the third.

"It's a great opportunity for me," said Brown, who made up for a costly baserunning mistake in Tuesday's loss. "We didn't play too bad last night, I made a mistake and it cost us. I was glad I could help the team today, so that we can head home with a win."

Oakland added a run in the eighth off Bryan Corey on Jeff Fiorentino's RBI single after a double by Kurt Suzuki, a native of Hawaii with Japanese grandparents.

Ramirez struck out three times after hitting a pair of two-run doubles Tuesday. He stood at the plate admiring his 10th-inning drive in the opener, thinking it

was a three-run homer, and had to hustle to reach second.

He could afford to stand and watch his shot Wednesday, a sure home run deep into the left-field seats that moved him within nine of joining the 500-homer club.

Santiago Casilla, Keith Foulke and Alan Embree followed Harden with one scoreless inning apiece, completing a five-hitter. Oakland rebounded from its fourth straight opening-day loss. Foulke threw a called third strike past Ramirez to end the eighth with a runner on second.

Lester gave up four runs, five hits and three walks in four innings.

"Emil got one pitch just a little bit over the plate and he hit it over the wall," Lester said.

Oklahoma City lease OK'd if Sonics move



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Commissioner David Stern and three NBA owners believe Oklahoma City should be the future home of the Seattle SuperSonics.

To make his relocation request a reality, Sonics owner Clay Bennett now needs to win over at least 13 more of his peers.

After a tour of the Ford Center and a presentation from Oklahoma City and state officials, Stern said Tuesday a subcommittee of three NBA owners would suggest approval of the SuperSonics' move by the rest of the league.

"We made important progress today," Bennett said. "A lot more to be done, but a very important step. I think it was a very successful day and we look forward to the next step."

Gov. Brad Henry, Oklahoma football coach

Bob Stoops and numerous other representatives of the city, state and sports community came out to welcome Stern, New Jersey Nets owner Lewis Katz, Indiana Pacers owner Herb Simon and Los Angeles Lakers vice president Jeanie Buss as Oklahoma City brought out fancy cars and hard facts to woo its first major-league sports franchise.

"It was a pretty full presentation and pretty much a tour de force on behalf of Oklahoma that I'd say impressed the members of the committee greatly," Stern said.

While the relocation would mean a move to a much smaller market, Stern said he was encouraged by the amount of support from area leaders and fans, and the revenue potential the team would have in a downtown arena being remodeled with \$121 million in public funds approved by 62 percent of the voters earlier this month.

"When you come to a place like Oklahoma, you look for the single-team market as opposed to, for example, a market that has three or more professional sports leagues in it," Stern said.

When asked about a group of Seattle businessmen who have offered to fund half of a \$300 million renovation at KeyArena, the Sonics' current

home, Stern rejected the option.

"The reason that this journey began was because KeyArena was not an adequate arena going forward and there were a lot of recommendations made for another arena ... but the tax revenues and the various contributions weren't forthcoming," Stern said.

Stern said the site of KeyArena doesn't have the potential for expansion present at Oklahoma City's downtown arena. Bennett has said the Sonics "don't have a prayer of succeeding in KeyArena."

Katz, Simon and Buss will meet with the remaining four members of the relocation committee—San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt, Miami Heat managing general partner Micky Arison, Chris Cohan of the Golden State Warriors and Ed Snider of the Philadelphia 76ers—likely by telephone and make a formal recommendation to the rest of the league's owners.

All 30 owners will vote on the SuperSonics' relocation request during an April 18 meeting, with a majority needed for approval. The Sonics also have a federal court case scheduled for June to determine whether they can break their lease with Seattle that runs through 2010.

On Tuesday morning, City Council members

in Oklahoma City approved terms of a 15-year lease with the SuperSonics that would require the team to pay the city \$1.6 million annually to use the Ford Center and another \$409,000 per year to be able to resell the arena's naming rights.

Former Oklahoma state Rep. Wanda Jo Stapleton voiced concerns to the council that the lease leaves the city in position to pay for any cost overruns on the Ford Center renovations and the construction of an approximately \$24 million practice facility funded by the sales tax extension.

"It's in black and white there that the city will pay for the cost overruns, and there could be tens of millions of dollars in cost overruns because they've given the team owners free rein to make any changes, whatever they want, during the entire construction period," Stapleton said. "It's just a blank check, that's all it is."

City Manager Jim Couch assured Stapleton that the lease would allow the city to make any cuts necessary to keep the project within its budget.

"We have a very good history of building stuff on time and being financially responsible," mayor Nick Cornett said.

K-State coach expects Beasley to go pro



MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—Michael Beasley is still grappling with a decision, but his coach expects the Kansas State star freshman to head into the NBA draft.

Frank Martin said in an interview with The Associated Press and the Manhattan Mercury on Tuesday he believes the 6-foot-10 power forward, even though he loves college life, will probably opt to turn pro.

"I think he's going to go, and I think it's the right thing to do, because he's going to be the top pick in the draft," Martin said.

Kevin Durant, who set freshman records last year with Texas and was the second overall player taken in the draft, is now worth about \$100 million counting salary and endorsement money, Martin said.

"How do you say no to that? How can I sit here and tell that young man that's he's wrong to go with that?" the first-year head coach said.

Most draft projections have Beasley going No. 1 overall after averaging 26.2 points and 12.4 rebounds. He also led the nation with 28 double-doubles and had 13 games with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds.

Quick and strong, able to hit both in-

side and outside, he had the second-most rebounds (408) and third-most points (866) of any freshman in NCAA history.

He and his mother, Fatima Smith, were flying back to their home in the Washington, D.C., area on Wednesday to discuss plans with family. Martin said he would sit down with Beasley next Tuesday and then meet with him again after they both travel to the Final Four.

"He's got to make sure that he does what's right for him and for his family. That's what my advice will come from," Martin said. "Not what's best for Kansas State, not what's best for John Doe. It's what's best for Michael Beasley. He's got to do what's best for him."

If the money were not so great, Beasley would probably be very inclined to stay in school.

"He just absolutely loves it," Martin said. "He kind of gets that stage to be a celebrity. But at the same time, he can disappear into being a college kid. He's embraced the responsibility of leading our program, of re-establishing Kansas State as somebody that's on the national scene that people in college basketball talk about. He's opened doors for us for television, for recruiting, for things that continue to benefit this program."

"But he loves being a college student. If he didn't, then the decision would have been made already."



Kansas State forward Michael Beasley (30) reacts after scoring two and getting fouled at the end of the game against Southern California in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional basketball game in Omaha, Neb., Thursday, March 20, 2008.



NFL BRIEFS

Trufant gets \$50.2M deal from Seahawks

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP)—Pro Bowl cornerback Marcus Trufant and the Seahawks have agreed to a \$50.2 million, six-year contract that runs through 2013. Agent Doug Hendrickson said the deal for 11th overall draft choice out of Washington State in 2003 includes \$20 million in guarantees. A \$3 million roster bonus due in 2010 effectively means Trufant is due \$28 million over the first three years of the contract, making him one of the highest-paid cornerbacks in the league. Adding to his good fortune, the Tacoma native is getting married on Saturday. "Yeah, it's a good week for Marcus," Hendrickson said in telephone interview Wednesday morning. Last year, Nate Clements signed an \$80 million, eight-year contract with the San Francisco 49ers. Last week, the Oakland Raiders traded with

Atlanta for DeAngelo Hall and then gave Hall a \$70 million, seven-year deal. A team spokesman confirmed that a media conference scheduled for Wednesday afternoon is to announce Trufant's new deal.

Colts sign Polian to extension

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts have signed president Bill Polian to a contract extension through 2011. The Polian-led Colts have posted a 105-55 regular-season record over the past 10 seasons, reached the playoffs eight times and won the Super Bowl after the 2006 season. Team owner Jim Irsay confirmed through a spokeswoman Wednesday that the extension has been finalized. The 65-year-old Polian was hired in 1998 to oversee all on-field operations. His draft choices include quarterback Peyton Manning,

running backs Edgerrin James and Joseph Addai, receiver Reggie Wayne, and defensive stars Dwight Freeney and Bob Sanders. Polian also had success previously while running the Buffalo Bills, with his teams reaching the Super Bowl three times.

NFL considering early start for opener

The NFL's Thursday night season opener will match the Super Bowl-champion New York Giants and the Washington Redskins, with the game possibly starting an hour-and-a-half earlier to avoid clashing with the Republican National Convention. The game is now scheduled for 8:30 p.m. EDT on Sept. 4—the concluding night of the Republican convention—and will be televised by NBC. League spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday that the NFL is talking with the network about changing the

game's starting time to 7 p.m. The Super Bowl winner traditionally hosts the game. The Redskins' participation was confirmed by a person familiar with the NFL schedule who spoke on condition of anonymity because the league has not announced it. The highlight games of the NFL's first weekend will be announced Monday during league meetings in Palm Beach, Fla. The rest of the schedule will be announced later next month.

NFL to consider hair length rule

NEW YORK (AP)—Troy Polamalu might not have to worry about getting tackled again by his hair. At their meetings in Palm Beach, Fla., next week, NFL owners will consider a proposal to ban players from having hair flow from their helmets below their names on the back of their jerseys. That might affect

Polamalu's image, but help him on the field. Two seasons ago, the Pittsburgh safety with the long ponytail had his hair grabbed by Kansas City's Larry Johnson and was thrown to the turf after an interception against the Chiefs. The rule banning long hair on the field was proposed by Kansas City. It does not require players to get haircuts, but does "require them to tuck it up inside their helmets," said Atlanta president Rich McKay, chairman of the league's competition committee. Polamalu is the best known of the players, most of them defensive backs, with hair flowing outside their helmets. Others include cornerbacks Al Harris of Green Bay and Mike McKenzie of New Orleans. Because the rule was proposed by a team, the competition committee did not take a position on it. It will be discussed Monday with a package of other rules.

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Teams jockey for finals positions

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Competing teams in the 2008 Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival are now jockeying for positions as the tournament enters its final day today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Okies, Kings, Ayuyus, and Brotherhood are in the top four of the boys' 18-and-under division, while Powerpuffs, Kagman High School, Bonafide, and the visiting Tinian High School duplicated the feat in the girls side.

The Umangs and Spicy Tuna are in position of getting the two finals berth in the boys 14-and-under, while undefeated Hilitai will face UR Mom in the girls division.

The Umangs might also earn another finals spot in the 12-and-under boys as they currently lead the standings with Team Tokka in close second. The girls class will be a battle between Fotten Bwii Bwii and Mini Marshmallows.

The standings are based on the number of sets won and lost. All games are played in the first-to-score 25 points in a three-set format.

The Kontenders were held to a draw by Brotherhood in the boys 18-and-under division, 25-21, 17-25, but they bounced back with a 29-27, 26-24 win over Hopwood Junior High School.

The Geckos outlasted Galuphs, 26-24, 25-21, in the boys' 14-and-under division, while Powerpuffs scored a 25-20, 29-27 win over Saipan South-

Jam Attack serves up next weekend

The annual Jam Attack Indoor Volleyball Tournament returns for the 2008 season when games begin next weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The three-day tournament will be held from April 4-6 where the men's and women's division titles are at stake.

There will be a captains meeting on Monday, March 31, where the final day of team sign ups will also be held at the Ada Gym conference room. There will be no last minute sign ups.

All team coaches or representatives are required to attend the meeting.

Last year, Guam teams used the Jam Attack as a warm up for the Pacific Games as their men's and women's squads dominated the three-day competitions.

Team Quality downed Isa Masters, 25-15, 26-24, in the women's division, while Haggan squeezed out a 25-23, 25-19 win in the men's.

Named Most Valuable Players in the men's and women's divisions were Brian Pangelinan and Francine Hoebing.

A total of nine teams competed in the men's division, while 18 battled for the women's division title.

For more information, call Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Janice Camacho at 323-6560. The competition is being organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association. (Jon Perez)

ern High School in the girls Under-18. The Okies and Kagman High School scored consecutive wins over Pwang, 25-10, 25-21, and 25-20, 25-7.

UR Mom dominated Mini Marshmallows all through out, 25-9, 25-2, while Tokka bested Whispering Palms School, 25-23, 25-11. Geckos drew with Umangs, 25-20, 18-25, and Tokka won by forfeit against Umangs.

The Okies defeated Brotherhood, 26-24, 25-17, in another boys' Under-18 match, while Umang remained on top of the Under-14 class with a 25-21, 25-19 beating of HJHS.

The Galuphs downed H To The Obos in the Under-12 boys division, 25-21, 25-18, Umang tripped Gaga, 25-12,

25-16, in another match. Bonafide was held to a 25-20, 24-26 draw by KHS.

The top four in the boys and girls divisions will advance to the finals with the top seed facing the fourth ranked squad and No. 2 meeting No. 3. The winners will then advance to the finals.

The boys' and girls' Under-12 and -14 divisions will have the top two teams battling for the title. All finals matches will be played today and the awards banquet will be held after all games.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is organizing the tournament in cooperation with the Division of Youth Services and Division of Sports and Recreation.

RGA monthly qualifier this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold the qualifier for its April Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, March 30, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

Check-in time for the competition is 11:30am with tee off set a half hour later at 12pm.

Entry fee is \$35 with greens fees at

\$20. The tournament can accommodate as much as 16 members.

RGA president "emeritus" and current tournament director Jess Wabol reminded the public that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25.

Wabol said this happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times

and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

For more information about RGA's upcoming April Ace of the Month Tournament qualifier, new membership policies, and other competitions held by the club, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. (Mark Rabago)

which will also be held next year."

White then sent BANMI's best wishes to the organizing committee as they hope for a successful tournament.

Only Guam and host Pohnpei beat the March 14 preliminary registration and were able to submit the requirements of their men's and women's teams.

Palau requested the tournament be moved to next year to give them more time to prepare.

The trip will be costly for Kiribati as their teams need to fly to Fiji, thru Australia, and to Guam to reach Pohnpei. Kiribati also needs to have U.S. transit visas to get through Guam.

The long trip to Pohnpei would cost \$2,800 in airfare for members. Nauru,

which is near Kiribati, would also spend the same amount and that would make it hard for the two countries to join in this year's tournament.

"I see no reason to organize and hold the tournament if we cannot get at least six men's and four women's teams," said Tobin in an earlier email.

In the last MBT in Guam, teams had to only pay for their airfare while the local organizing committee provided them with meals, accommodation, and transportation.

White added 2008 MBT organizers want the visiting teams to shoulder everything, which means aside from airfare the visiting teams would also pay for their own food, lodging, and transportation.

Color Basketball League kicked off last March 14 at the Ada Gym with Advance X-Terminators and Shirley's Coffee Shop winning the opening games.

Led by veteran big man Edsel Mendoza's 20 points, Advance X-Terminators upset a highly touted Tasi Tours Giants team, 98-81, in the first game.

Shirley's Coffee Shop, meanwhile, drew strength from the deadly triumvirate of Elmer Esdreton, John Santos, and Ryan Sanciangco to beat SMF-Seabridge, 122-112, in the nightcap.

Aside from the five mentioned teams, Garcia said also seeing action in the open

division of the competition are Pacific Telecoms, Inc. and Blue House.

The league will also be played at the Construction and Material Supply basketball court in Gualo Rai or at the CIC basketball court in Garapan on top of the Oleai Sports Complex venue. The league will have three play dates every week—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Garcia said no games are scheduled in the 40-and-over division yet as he is still finalizing details of the masters league.

For more information about the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, call Garcia at 233-0802.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	56	15	.789	—
Philadelphia	37	35	.514	19 1/2
Toronto	36	35	.507	20
New Jersey	31	41	.431	25 1/2
New York	20	51	.282	36

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	46	27	.630	—
Washington	37	34	.521	8
Atlanta	31	40	.437	14
Charlotte	26	45	.366	19
Miami	13	58	.183	32

Central Division

x-Detroit	50	21	.704	—
Cleveland	40	32	.556	10 1/2
Indiana	29	43	.403	21 1/2
Chicago	28	43	.394	22
Milwaukee	24	46	.343	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	49	21	.700	—
Houston	49	23	.681	1
San Antonio	49	23	.681	1
Dallas	45	26	.634	4 1/2
Memphis	18	53	.254	31 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	47	25	.653	—
Denver	43	28	.606	3 1/2
Portland	38	34	.528	9
Minnesota	18	52	.257	28
Seattle	17	55	.236	30

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	49	23	.681	—
Phoenix	47	24	.662	1 1/2
Golden State	43	27	.614	5
Sacramento	32	39	.451	16 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	50	.296	27 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 115, Milwaukee 96
Boston 117, Phoenix 97
Toronto 89, Detroit 82
Philadelphia 121, Chicago 99
New Orleans 100, Cleveland 99
New Jersey 124, Indiana 117
New York 103, Miami 96, OT
Houston 97, Minnesota 86
San Antonio 97, L.A. Clippers 88
Sacramento 107, Memphis 106, OT
Washington 104, Seattle 99
Charlotte 108, L.A. Lakers 95

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings

Majors

Red Sox	5	0
Ol'Aces	5	0
Dragons	4	1
Survivors	4	1
Patriots	3	1
Twins	3	1
Hustlers I	3	1
Dolphins	4	2
Braves	2	2
Athletics	1	4
Hustlers II	1	4
McDonald's	1	4
Dare JPO's	1	3
Lions	0	4
Pirates	0	4
Suns	0	5

SML Standings

Rock Steady	4	0
Tanapag Falcons	3	0
Korean Dreams	3	1
D9ers	2	1
Ford Rangers	2	1
Kabur	0	3
Komoro	0	4
Tigers	0	4

PATRIOTS

From Page 44

Mizer, Sablan, and Philip held the Twins to a combined 0-for-13 in batting.

BIG LEAGUE

Aztecs 5, Jets 4

Pitchers Lawrence Dikito and Nicolas San Nicolas limited the JET Holdings Jets to a combined 5-for-25 in batting to lead the UMDA Aztecs in a 5-4 win

on Monday, March 24.

Dikito pitched for two innings and was tagged with four hits with a strikeout and two walks, while San Nicolas pitched five innings in relief allowing no hits with eight strikeouts and one walk.

Dikito also went 2-for-4 with one run, while San Nicolas went 1-for-4 with one run scored and an RBI-double.

Smith Regis and Timothy Cruz combined for 4-for-4 in batting with one run and three RBIs.

RANGERS

From Page 44

Roque D9ers at fourth to fifth places.

Sakisat also pitched six scoreless innings, getting a lot of help from the Rangers defense in preventing the Tigers to reach home plate. The Tigers scored in the bottom of the seventh when they strung together four runs highlighted by Cruz's three-run inside-the-park home run.

Robert Bansil, who was a member of the CNMI National Baseball Team that won the gold in the 6th Micronesian Games in 2006, went 2-for-2 with one run, two RBIs, and a stolen base, while Clifton Silil went 2-for-4 with two runs and three stolen bases.

Cruz was the lone bright spot for the Tigers, going 2-for-3 with one run and a seventh inning three-RBI inside-the-park home run.

Tigers pitcher Ben Duenas also went the distance and was tagged with eight earned runs on 13 hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

On Monday night, defending champion Tanapag Falcons ended the new-look Korean Dreams' three-game winning streak in a 21-7 crushing.

The win was the third straight for the Falcons to remain within striking distance of the 4-0 mark of league-leading Rock Steady.

Pete Teigita pitched for three innings, surrendering three earned runs on five hits with two strikeouts and two walks. Gregory Camacho earned the win after pitching four innings in relief giving up one earned run on four hits with six strikeouts and one walk.

Oscar Sablan closed out, allowing an earned run on one hit with fanning three and walking another two batters.

The Dreams were very much in the game as they trailed only 7-13 after 7 1/2 innings but the Falcons scored eight straight runs in the bottom of the eighth to pull away and let their pitchers ground the batters of their opponents.

Mike Pangelinan and Henry Iguel led the Falcons' hitting combining for 6-for-12 in batting with three runs scored and five RBIs. Pangelinan also had a double.

John Dikito went 2-for-4 with three runs, a double, a triple, and two RBIs.

Rock Steady guns for its fifth straight win today when they face the dangerous D9ers of San Roque at 6:30pm at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

ORGANIZERS

From Page 44

Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White informed Tobin that CNMI would not send teams in both divisions citing funding as the main reason.

"We are committed to attending the Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam later this year and the cost of airfare, accommodations, and meals in Pohnpei is unfortunately more than we can undertake at this time," White said.

White added the CNMI would be interested in joining the tournament if it is moved to next year. "Provided that it did not conflict with the Oceania Tournament

FMI

From Page 44

while the second game—set at around 7:30pm—will have Ol'Aces taking on SMF-Seabridge.

The FMI cage league continues on Saturday with another twinbill. The first game will have GEC Pawnshop taking on MIGS at 6:15pm to be followed by the 7:30pm match between Shirley's Coffee Shop and Advance X-Terminators.

The Inaugural Mariana Islands Inter-

Trench Tech around the island



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Warz and Rites of Passage organizer Cuki Alvarez, right, participates in the “Mystery Reader” program of San Vicente Elementary School during March Reading Month.



Frank “The Crank” Camacho, top right, poses with some of the Trench Tech girls during their recent visit at San Vicente Elementary School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez shows off an illustration of the book he is reading to fifth grade students of Ms. Patris.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez reads to the fifth grade class of Ms. Patris.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez reads to two elementary students.

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym fighters, from left, Tetsuji Kato, Cuki Alvarez, Frank “The Crank” Camacho, Tunz Ngotel, and Jason Tarkong, pose with the thank you cake given by San Vicente Elementary School students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Veteran mixed martial arts fighters, from left, Kelvin “The Big Hit” Fitial, Myron “The Natural” San Nicolas, Cuki Alvarez, and Frank “The Crank” Camacho pose for a group picture during San Vicente Elementary School’s Education Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School teachers Kimberly Arriola, left, and Diana Felix spar inside the cage. Trench Tech has assisted SVES teachers in the Public School System’s health and wellness program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez, left, wife Mari, and their siblings pose with Japanese exchange student Masatoshi Shige, center, during the English Language Development Training & Homestay Program. The Alvarezes hosted Shige.



A photo of the cake given by the San Vicente Elementary School fifth grade students for Trench Tech’s participation in their Literacy Night.



Teams jockey for finals positions

Competing teams in the 2008 Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival are now jockeying for positions as the tournament enters its final day today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

42

Saipan Tribune Sports

Celtics respond to defeats with win over Suns

The Boston Celtics responded to successive defeats and beat the Phoenix Suns 117-97 in the NBA on Wednesday.



39

44 FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Organizers cancel '08 MBT in Pohnpei

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The organizing committee of the 2008 Micronesian Basketball Tournament finally canceled the biennial tournament since only three countries will be fielding teams in this year's games to be held in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Only Pohnpei and Guam sent confirmation that they will be competing in the men's and women's divisions, while Kosrae will only send a men's team.

Chuuk, Yap, CNMI, Nauru, and Kiribati have already informed Jim Tobin, who co-

chairs the 2008 Pohnpei MBT with Castro Joab, about their inability to send teams to the competition.

"Sorry but it will be hard to organize a good tournament with only three men's and two women's teams. I will wait until this Friday to make a final decision on whether to hold the tournament this year," said Tobin in an email.

Tobin said Palau and the CNMI asked to postpone the MBT until next year while he has yet to receive any word from the Marshall Islands.

Basketball Association of the
See ORGANIZERS on Page 42



Patriots vent ire on Twins



Wells Fargo-As Matus Twins pitcher Darren Jones, right, throws to SaipanCell Patriots batter Jared Manglona in their game in the Major division of the Saipan Little League on Wednesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

With their 42-game winning streak and bid for another undefeated season broken last week, the SaipanCell Patriots vented their frustration on the Wells Fargo-As Matus Twins Wednesday afternoon.

The Twins, playing their first game after suffering a 1-2 loss to the Happy Market/L&Y Corp. Ol'Aces last March 16, went on a hitting spree to cruise

to a 16-0 blanking of the Twins at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The win improved the Patriots' record to 4-1 behind the 5-0 slates of the Bank of Saipan Red Sox and Ol'Aces. The Patriots now join the Pacific Islands Club/Deloitte&Touche San Antonio Dragons and National Office Supply Survivors from third to fifth place in the 16-team field. The loss dropped the Twins' record to 3-2.

Cousins Jeremy, who was a

single short of making the cycle, and Jun Rabauliman led the Patriots hitting spree as they each had a home run in the game.

Jeremy went 3-for-3 with three runs, a double, a triple, and four RBIs. He had a two-RBI triple in the Patriots' 10-run first inning then blasted a two-run home run in the bottom of the second.

Jun went 1-for-3 with a run scored and three RBIs. He belted a three-run inside-the-park home run in the first inning

where the Patriots broke the game wide open.

Jose Lizama, 1-for-1, had an RBI triple and scored one run also for the Patriots.

Chris Mizer had his second start for the Patriots and lasted only two innings, giving up one hit with five strikeouts and a walk. Jared Sablan pitched .2 innings in relief with no hits, a strikeout, and one walk.

Brandon Philip closed out for the Patriots, 1.1 innings, with no hits, three strikeouts, and two walks.

See PATRIOTS on Page 42



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The organizing committee of the 2008 Micronesian Basketball Tournament finally canceled the biennial tournament after only three countries confirmed that they were fielding in teams in this year's games to be held in Kolonia, Pohnpei. Photo above shows CNMI and Palau in action in the 2006 Micronesian Games basketball competition on Saipan.

Rangers, Sakisat tame Tigers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran Mel Sakisat pitched a complete game to help the Ford Rangers tame the Tigers, 9-4, in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Sakisat did not give up a hit for five consecutive innings as he held the Tigers, which dropped to 0-4 with the loss to

join Komoro at the cellar, to a combined 6-for-30 in batting.

Dennis Cruz ended Sakisat's hit-less streak when he singled in the bottom of the sixth but was tagged out while trying to run toward third base.

All of the Tigers' runs were earned as Sakisat allowed six hits with two strike-

outs and one walk to help the Rangers secure their second win in three games to join the San
See RANGERS on Page 42



FMI cage league resumes

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



After a long layoff because of the Holy Week, the Friends of the Mariana Islands Inter-Color Basketball League resumes its inaugural season tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League coordinator Boy Garcia said the first game in tonight's doubleheader begins at 6:15pm when Tasi Tours go up against Price Costco,
See FMI on Page 42



JON PEREZ

TASI Tours general manager David Igitol, standing center, joins the Tasi Tours Giants team for a group photo during the opening of the Inaugural Friends of the Marianas Inter-Color Basketball League on March 14 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.